

HENRY DARGER -

" THE VIVIAN

GIRLS

IN CHICAGO "

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# VOLUME FIVE

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4,24  
were quite as real human beings as they were to Gladys, and the eight little girls would play happily together by the hour.

Then when Gladys did find out how fond her friends were of books she suggested reading aloud to her and the proposal was received with such gratitude that her vain little soul was flattered and from then on one of her greatest amuse-

Indeed Father Car-  
new had written to  
the archbishop a letter  
such as he had ne-  
ver recieved before  
and never would  
again. He began  
it by writing of  
what he heard  
about Abroamman  
children. What  
they were what  
they desired so  
strongly and so  
on. He asked  
him to come  
and see the child-  
ren for they  
were the most

unheard of children  
ever born. Then  
he told just what  
had occurred all  
about their claimed  
sunless life their  
desire for commu-  
nion without  
confession and  
other events.

Now the arch-  
bishop answered  
by return mail  
that it was  
impossible for  
him to quit  
his duties so  
suddenly and  
come to see them.

He going to  
Communion without  
Confession story  
surprised him  
greatly but he  
hoped such a  
crazy nonsense  
would be a  
thing of the past  
before his letter  
was received  
Meanwhile if  
those children  
refused to go  
to Confession  
first and still  
insisted they were  
so ~~un~~less Father  
Carney would

do well to write  
the Authorities and  
have those children  
committed to some  
home for the  
Feeble Minded.  
And for example  
the archbishop said  
he had no intent  
ion of making  
a special trip  
to St Patrick's  
School from Man-  
ion just because  
some children  
claim they never  
sin. What was  
more no such  
children had never

been known or seen  
like that in the  
world that nobody,  
not even the great-  
est saints were  
like that and if  
such children were  
in Chicago like  
that now they  
were either too  
sensible in mind  
to sin, or were  
lying or were  
was one and  
7 other Carney  
should settle  
with them at  
once if this  
were impos-

ible he could get  
the members of  
the juvenile court  
to help them.  
or he could have  
them examined  
to see if evil  
spirits did not  
possess them for  
no such extraor-  
dinary children  
so holy ever  
existed or will  
exist.



9525

his little girl so happy and listened with real interest to her detailed account of the real perfections of the little Virriams, but it so happened that he did not see them himself untill three days after their first acquaintance with Gladys.

When coming home one afternoon rather earlier than usual he found the nine children together in the parlor.

One of the little Virriams was at

9526

the piano softly touching the keys and trying to pick out a simple tune that a hand organ had been playing in the street.

"Oh papa, here's Pennod and his sisters. I do want you to see them so much".

Mr. Wenthworth smiled, but his glance was very kind as it rested on the sweet faces with those big blue eyes and wonderfully strange

1527

golden hair.

They had risen at once on his entrance, and now stood blushing and even trembling a little.

To them Mr Wentworth was the great and omnipotent power in whose hands rested their fate consisting their success in Sesernam's haunted house.

Little did they dream that Mr Wentworth with his mind full of other things had for a time

9528

forgotten the incident of little Margaret's horrid phenomenon. He took Jennie's hand very kindly, and told her he was glad to see her and her brother and sisters and that he had heard a great deal about them, from his little daughter.

Then his eyes wandered to the open piano and he then inquired:-

"Were you not playing when I came in?"

Jennie blushed more than before.

95 29

and looked decidedly embarrassed.

"Oh we s-sure can play any musical instrument that's made" she said. "but just now I was trying to remember a tune the hand organ was playing outside"

"That is more than most of us can do I fancy" said Mr Wenthworth. "Are you fond of music?"

Jennie's face brightened.

"Oh yes indeed"

95 30

she said eagerly "I love it dearly, I and my sisters"

"You ought to take music lessons" said Mr Wenthworth looking interested. He was passionately fond of music himself, and it was a source of deep regret that so far Gladys had not appeared to care so much about it especially studying it. I met a young blind lady at a friend's house

95-31

the other day, who played remarkably well on the piano"

"We take music lessons?" said Gemmie seriously.

"Why yes,"

"Why that's absurd" grinned Permod.

"Why?"

"We could teach it instead" declared Gemmie "We all can play beautifully

too and also sing. We surely could do teaching but you see

we couldn't afford the time but any-

95-32

day you would like us to entertain you we will gladly consent"

Mr Wentworth said a few more pleasant words but then went away up stairs but he did not forget the little incident.

It was on the next day being Saturday and in the morning that Gladys and Sarah made their (disappearance) appearance at the haunted Sese man. In a much earlier



7533

how than usual. It was still wintery cold though April.

"We come to take you home with me to spend the whole day." Gladys announced. "It's my birthday you know and we're going to have a perfectly lovely time. I'm the first place we're going out in the carriage and I'm going to stop at Jears toy store to buy my birthday present from papa."

9534

He gave me fifty dollars this morning and then gave me thirty five dollars more and told me to buy just what I liked with it. I've decided to get a doll with a trousseau and with the money left after that, we can stop at the phonograph place on the way home and get some new records.

Then you're coming home to lunch with me and our cook is going.

9535

to make a beautiful  
birthday cake with  
icing and candles  
and every thing  
and after lunch and  
this is the best  
part of all papa has  
got ten seats for  
Floradora, and you  
little Virriams, and  
Sarah and I are  
all going. Won't that  
be splendid?"

"Oh" gasped Vio-  
let and her sis-  
ters together and  
positively could  
not say another  
word, so much

9536

pleasure all crowded  
into one day fairly  
took away their breath.

"Papa said you all  
must go because  
you're all so fond  
of music" Gladys  
went on "he's just  
crazy about music  
himself you know  
and he wants  
me to take lesson  
next winter, but  
oh dear I know I  
can never learn,  
it must be  
awfully hard".

"But you'll try  
to learn won't you

9537

said Angelina a little anxiously "I don't think it can be so very hard, that is if you love it the way I and my sisters do. We found it easy to learn."

"I don't know" said Gladys indifferently. "I like to hear music very much maybe even more than you do. But studying is different. If I don't like to study it I suppose I shall stop." "But if it would

famous  
ed a  
otable  
shall  
rather  
don't mean  
don't. But  
y and  
lings  
be here  
riage  
few  
id we've  
lot to  
morn-

more was  
e sub-

9540

ject of Gladys music lesson, but perhaps those few words of Angelina had not fallen on quite such barren ground as Sarah who had dustered with an approving countenance had imagined for several times that day. They recurred to Gladys memory and that evening when she was bidding her father good night, she threw her arms around

9541

his neck and kissed  
him with more aff-  
ection than usual.

Oh "Oh papa dear  
she exclaimed feel-  
ing half inclined  
to cry though she  
could not have  
told why "its been  
such a nice birth-  
day and the Virians  
are such lovely  
little angels and  
now that I'm ten  
I'm really going  
to try to like  
lessons better".

Perhaps that birth-  
day was the hap-

9542

priest of all those first  
happiest days to Pen-  
nod and his sisters.

The visit to the  
toy shop, the delicious  
lunch and oh best  
of all the fasci-  
nating operetta with  
its gay pretty music.

The Virians scarce-  
ly spoke during the per-  
formance but sat  
drinking in every  
note of music with  
rapturous enjoyment.

They were indeed  
living in a beau-  
tiful new world  
from which they did

9343

not emerge until they had left the theatre, and were on their way home.

"Wasn't it nice?" said Gladys as Sarah closed the carriage door.

Then Jennie and the others came back to reality with a start.

"Nice?" they all echoed.

"It was too beautiful indeed" added Jennie.

"We didn't know there was anything so lovely in the world."

Gladys laughed,

9544

"How do you do enjoy things, don't you?" she said. most patronizingly "didn't you ever go to a music theatre before?"

"No never" said Angelina "and movies we shun" and they were silent for several minutes until Gladys who liked to talk much better than to think inquired.

"What are you thinking about?"

"I was just wondering" said Jennie.



9346

smiling "whether there are any people in the world outside of our own country as happy as we are?"

Gladys opened her eyes wide in astonishment at this novel idea.

"Why of course there are" she said, "there must be lots and lots."

But Gemma, are you little Virrums always happy?

Don't you wish you could do things

9346

and feel cross because you can't?"

Gemma's bright face was just a little wistful as she answered.

"We can't help wishing for things sometimes but we are almost always happy."

We used to be happy during our adventure with the enemy as that's fun and very thrilling and no matter what we went through we liked it as fun, and now since we have known

9547

you and have many friends we've been happier still. We couldn't help it you know when you have been so awfully kind to us."

"What's your principal wish?" Gladys inquired with maternal curiosity.

"Well," said Gemmie slowly, "I do very often wish that all the world was simpler and that there were no cruel wars. I wish we were finished

9548

with Mr. Seesman's 'crazy' house, and we also do wish that we could go back home, to our own Country and be back at our military duty just as we used to before we came over here. You don't know how pretty we are when we are all dressed in our beautiful uniforms.

Mrs. Jerry told a general once that we could make the prettiest angels jealous if they

9349

can be jealous.  
That was just before  
we came over here,  
and we have never  
thought when we  
are going back again  
since.

"But don't you  
ever wish for things  
for yourselves too?"  
Gladys asked.

"Oh yes we do  
sometimes but I  
don't believe we  
ought to when we  
are princesses and  
got so many nice  
things. We can't  
help thinking

9350

sometimes how  
lovely it would be  
now, if Mr. Seseman's  
house was cured for  
good, and we could  
go back to our own  
country where we  
rightly belong."

"Don't you ever  
wish that you were  
born boys instead  
of girls?"

Jennie shook her  
head.

"We never think  
about that?" she  
said. "We never  
have been boys  
but we can do



9551

almost everything  
that boys can do.  
But we believe that  
girls are somewhat  
better than boys and  
so do. Permod 'more  
than we do, and that  
girls should 'be con-  
tented to be what  
God made them".

Gladys asked no  
more questions, but  
it was not the  
first time that  
Jennie's simple  
words had made  
her vaguely  
uncomfortable. It  
was not very

pleasing to remember  
how often she her-  
self wished for things  
or wanted them and  
was cross and dis-  
contented because  
she could not have  
them and often would  
not take 'no' for  
an answer and yet  
she had so much  
more to make her  
life bright and  
happy than the  
poor little Virraro's.

But all good  
things must come  
to an end at  
last and it was

93-5-5

sisters smiled gratefully  
 "You're awfully kind," said Violet but I'm afraid we couldn't leave Marjorie and her sister in the Grapshin house alone, and they have no parents."

"Then they can come too" said Gladys with reckless hospitality. "Marjorie can sit on the piazza with her sister and read and talk to papa in the evening."

93-5-6

oh yes, and any one of you can play on the piano too, just as much as she likes."

The faces of the little Urbans shone with pleasure.

"That would be just too beautiful for words," Angelina said but I don't know whether Marjorie or Margaret would like to come or not. Marjorie does not know your papa you see."

"Well she'll get acquainted with him."

955-8

if she came would-  
nt she". said Gladys  
laughing "but you're  
to come anyway  
whether Mary orie  
or Margaret does  
or not".

The Virriams  
said nothing and  
Gladys chattered on  
about the pleasures  
in store for them  
all. The next  
two April days flew  
by all too fast  
and all too soon  
came the morn-  
ing when Gladys  
ran in next door

955-9

through the rear for  
the last time to say  
good bye. The express  
wagon was at the  
door and some of  
the servants had  
already left with  
the morning van.

Gladys was in  
the gayest of  
spirits and kissed  
Pernod and his  
sisters with real  
affection. As for  
the little Virriams  
they said very little  
and Jennie clung  
tight to her friend  
and tried hard

9.5.60

to choke down the  
big lump in her  
throat.

"We shall never  
never forget how good  
you've been to us".  
She faltered "We shall  
keep thinking about  
you all the time  
and when you come  
back next winter  
and if we are still  
here -"

"But we shall  
see each other  
long before next  
winter" interrupted  
Gladys "You're com-  
ing to Evamston

-9.5.61

as soon as possible  
even Sarah talks about  
it. But I can't stay any  
longer, papa said I  
must only say good  
bye and then come  
right back. We're going  
in a little while.  
Good bye you precious  
little things and  
don't forget you're  
coming very soon."

In another  
moment the bed  
room door had  
closed behind  
the visitor and  
the little Virams  
to keep from

9563

being alone some  
without her prepared  
to meet their dreaded  
obstacles once more.

Chapter 69  
Two letters  
at Exarston.

956

It was six o'clock  
on a very chilly  
evening in April  
For a week Chung  
at Mr. Sessmann's  
house took a turn  
from bad to worse,  
and became un-  
bearably torment-  
ing and all those  
tenants who had  
still stayed, now  
among them who  
could possibly  
manage to do  
so were hurrying  
away from the

95-65

neighborhood to  
three or four blocks  
further away.

Most of Miss Scott's  
boarders, scared or un-  
bearably annoyed by  
the strange loud noises  
and the visible blood  
or spine chilling  
phenomenons had  
also gone away, and  
Miss Scott herself  
was talking of just  
taking a run up  
to Northern Wisc  
to spend the com-  
ing summer with  
a married sister.  
The fact was she

95-66

too was getting to scar-  
ed to remain.

All the other houses  
in the near by blocks  
were closed or ten-  
anted only by people  
and their families  
who were of the  
kind of Irish, who  
defied demon and  
all hell with them,  
while Pennad and  
his sisters with the  
Octopus and the other  
helpers stayed it  
out desperately  
through the long chill  
April days trying  
vainly to find some



9567

way by God's help  
to conquer the spiritual  
foes, and hoping im-  
patiently for the  
arrival of the rest of  
the parts that belong  
to the Paloo.

Derron fighting  
so severe as this  
really did not agree  
with Perron or his  
sisters, and their  
mothers heart ached  
with an almost  
unbearable ache as  
she saw the little  
faces she loved so  
dearly grow paler  
daily, from over

9568

exertion and lack of  
sleep and rest, and  
noted the weary lan-  
guid note in the  
sweet voices, that still  
had no word of com-  
plaint to utter.

She and others  
and even their father  
and Evam and lots  
of school children,  
the latter by mail,  
had begged them  
to desist and let  
Sesernam house  
go to its fate,  
and Sesernam  
too, had telephoned  
the same thing

9569

very often, but though they would have liked to do so the very worst way they were afraid to give it up, for consequence that may follow.

On this particular evening a wet chill one, their mother was feeling more tired and anxious than usual.

Things that day had been extremely severe at Sese-mam house, the worst on record

rizzle for us were her and not be. I told her - ed the to come speak to. I passed in daughters his has wet day it?" she said as I was step - the which did right fully

9572

warm after the chill and wet of the rain swept street "You look just about ready to drop too, from lack of sleep in Sese-mam house, you poor thing." "I'm rather tired" the Empress admitted "but I suppose I ought not to mind possessed houses, as I had experience with three others before finding this one, though this is the far worst" even



9573

"Well those poor little daughters of yours mind it whether you do or not," said the landlady a little sharply. "Those little girls do not look a bit well and one of them, Angelina I believe hardly tasted her lunch to day. I brought them each a hot glass of milk and some cookies this afternoon thinking they might like something, risking the danger of the poltergeists

9574

but when I went back in the 'Crazy' house to take away the glasses and plates half an hour ago, I found Angelina had eaten only one cookie, though she did drink the milk. Can't you manage to take them off somewhere for a little change, so they can forget these poltergeists for a time. It would do them all the good in the world if you

95 75

The Empress shook her head sadly.

"I'm afraid not at present" she said.

"They are afraid to give it up for fear of awful consequences, and a law suit. They intend

to rely on the P. also. With the coming of the other parts, and even them I scarcely know - do you really think my little daughters are ill,

Mrs. Scott?  
"Well, I don't say

95 76

they are exactly ill" said the landlady touched by the anxious expression on the mother's face, "but a change would be a splendid thing for them."

If my mother did not have such a big family of her own, that she never has room for any I declare I'd take the little princesses to Kallamagoo with me next week. I'm only going to be away a few months.

9577

but it would be better than nothing But if I can I'll take them to Northern Wisconsin next week for two days. But what is the consequence you speak of?"

"You are very kind" said the Empress holding out her hand and Miss Scott saw that her lip was trembling "I must try and manage to give my little daughters a chance to get away from that crazy place

9578

for a while. I can't see just at present how it is to be done because of the consequences and the consequences are that if they go away the evil spirits will follow and torment them wherever they go."

"That's all nonsense" said Miss Scott. "people are only trying to fool you"

Then the Empress thanking her hurried away towards the Grapton house while the landlady

95-79

went off to see about dinner.

Violet and her sisters were sitting by the big attic window Jennie having a low rocker by another window with a bible on her lap but as the bible was now being read for the third time it was only natural that a little of the original interest, caused by discouragement and change over the continual resistance

95-80

of the evil spirits should have worn off and at the moment when the Empress entered the attic Jennies busy fingers were resting idly on the pages before her, and she was leaning back in her chair with a listless tired expression on the pale little face that it wrung her mother's heart to see.

Her sisters arose at their mother's approach, but Jennies and their greeting

9581

were just as bright  
and eager as of old, and  
when the Empress had  
taken off her hat they  
all sat down together  
just as they had done  
not long ago when  
Gladys had first  
made the acquaint-  
ance of the little  
Viriam girls in Mr  
Sesernam Crazy  
Grappin house?

"Have you all been  
very uncomfortable  
to day in this crazy  
old house all by  
yourselves my pets?  
the Empress

9582

asked anxiously  
laying her hand  
on Jennies

"Oh no, not so very  
Everything was pretty  
crazy during the  
hours the sun was  
on this side of the  
house, but we kept  
in the attic, not pay-  
ing any attention  
to the noises and  
other phenomena  
and what do you  
think, some of  
us really fell  
asleep despite the  
hubbub downstairs  
and had quite a  
long nap. I had



95-83

a lovely dream too.  
I thought you and Gladys  
and my sisters and  
Bernad and I were all  
in Heaven together  
and you were driving  
the horse pulling  
a golden chariot and  
our laps were full  
of lovely heavenly  
flowers.

Oh it was such  
a nice dream, and  
when I woke up  
such a pleasant  
thing happened.  
I was just feeling  
so thirsty and  
wishing I could

95-84

have a nice drink  
of something cold  
when in came Miss  
Scott with lovely  
(gas) glasses of lemon-  
ade on a tray and  
some cookies. Wasn't  
it kind of her?"

"Very" said the Empress  
rather absently "child-  
ren" she added after  
a moments pause  
"do you know I've  
made up my mind  
to write to the Pope  
of Rome about this  
dreadful house?  
I can write in Italian  
The little girl gave

9587

ent before had been so pale and languid from lack of sleep and rest.

"Why dont you want me to write dear?" she questioned wonderingly.

"Because - because, oh never mind, only please wait a little while longer"

Her mother smiled "I supposed you think that just as long as we are not driven out by the bursk there is always hope that we may win

9588

out yet" she said, stroking Jennies cheek "well I will wait another week, but I know it is only postponing the hopeful, on the evil day" even if things wasnt so very bad. And children dont you think it rather strange that youve never heard a word from Gladys since she went to Evanston?"

"Gladys hates writing letters" said Angelina apologetically "she told us she never wrote when she could

95-89

possibly help it".

"Didn't she say she was going to ask you little girls and Perrod to visit her?"

"Yes and I told her we could not possibly go and leave Marjorie and her sister in this place all alone".

Their mother looked a little troubled.

I wish you had not said that dear".

"Why not?" inquired the little girls together in a tone of astonishment "They're orphans and you would not

95-90

want us to go and leave them by themselves in this dangerous house?"

Her mother's fingers tightened on the little hand but she answered with forced cheerfulness.

"And why not my dear little pussycats?" Do you think that Marjorie and Margaret are of such vast importance that they couldn't possibly exist a week or two without you and me?"

"We're also afraid the demons will really

95-91

follow after us and make trouble for the 'wenth worths said Violet simply.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, and so they should more than we can tell" added Catherine.

"I doubt that" said their mother firmly. "And yet if I knew we would be happy about the change and it would be doing you good I know I should feel very happy about it." We would like to go wouldn't we?

95-92

5

we?"

"Oh yes we should like to very much if we knew Mary and Margaret were safe and having a good time too. We have come to love Gladys and it would be beautiful to be in the country and hear the birds and smell the flowers and see every thing that grows there but we couldn't enjoy it unless we knew that those two little girls were safe and happy."

9593

"And they will be safe and happy" said their mother quickly. "And I don't know of anything that would make us all happier just now."

Perhaps Gladys may forget about the imitation, but if she really does ask us, children, dear, we should very much like to accept

"But we've never been away from Margaret and Margie - for ever so long" said Catherine

9594

with a little quiver in her voice.

"I know that my pet but you don't have to <sup>say</sup> part with them, when the time comes, if Gladys invites them too and

I know you told me she said she would and it would make me so happy to see the bright color in your cheeks again

(Well) We should feel safe about ourselves too, that Sarah is a good, conscientious woman, and we should have no fear in

9595

trusting ourselves to  
her care and watch-  
ful ness."

Before any of the  
little girls could answer  
there was a knock at  
the door.

Jennie flew to the  
door.

"Set me open it"  
she cried eagerly "you  
seem so comfortable  
I don't want you to  
move."

She returned in a  
moment with two  
envelopes in her  
hand.

"Two letters mother

9596

Who do you suppose  
they came from?"

"One is for you" said  
her mother taking it  
from Jennie's outstret-  
ched hand "and yes -  
I'm sure it's from  
Gladys 'worth' worth  
for it has the Evans  
letter post mark."

"Oh please do read  
it to us" cried Angelina  
to whom the receipt  
of any sort of letter  
was an event of  
the most considerable  
importance. The  
Empress tore open  
the envelope and  
read aloud -



9597

Evamston Ill April 10  
1912

Dear little Viriam  
and your good mother and  
father,

I want you all to come  
to Evamston next week to  
stay as long as you really  
can and to forget the bar-  
ren of Seseemam house  
for a time.

Bring Marjorie and  
Margaret with you. Set  
me know what day you  
can come and Sarah will  
go to the city for you  
and bring you all here.  
Your train fare will  
be at papas expense,

9598

he said so himself and  
Sarah will have the tickets  
for you.

I have a pony here  
and other pets and we  
will have lovely times  
together I am very lonely  
and papa says he will  
be very glad when I have  
some one to play with.

I hate writing letters  
so I want say any more  
so please write as soon as  
you can and tell me  
what day you will come.

Sarah says to tell  
you in other she will  
take care of you all. I  
think Sarah likes you

better than she does most  
people Good bye till you come  
From your loving  
friend,

Gladys Mortimer  
Wentworth.

The Empress looked  
up from the letter  
with a smile.

"How odd that it  
should have come  
just now while we  
were talking about it"  
she said. "We would  
really like to go  
if you knew it  
would make us all  
happy wouldn't you

and will be  
last of next  
month I think  
it off before  
others will  
my after,

we did  
n, fighting  
his house  
must man-  
some new

he other  
mnie ex  
with a sud-  
election?  
elling all  
ring it to

The Empress held out  
her hand rather in-  
differently, her cor-  
respondence was not  
very interesting now-  
a days. Next morn-  
ing however her  
manner changed and  
she exclaimed in great  
astonishment

"Why its from Went-  
worth and Company Pub-  
lishers, perhaps Gladys  
father has written  
to ask our consent to  
our going - how very  
nice of him - isn't  
it?"

The little girls made

9603

no answer at the words  
Wentworth and Company  
Publishers their hearts had  
given one great big bound  
and then almost seem-  
ed to stand still. The  
Empress tore open the  
letter, read the first  
line then uttered a low  
astonished cry and  
sank back in her  
chair trembling from  
head to foot.

"What is it oh what  
is it? Oh mother dear  
what does it say?"  
gasped Jennie sei-  
zing the paper, which  
her mother in her

9604

surprise had let fall in  
her lap.

"To - its about Mr  
Roseman's crazy house  
children, why Jen, how  
can it be, I never sent  
any petition for help  
there to a publishing  
company."

"Read it read it" cried  
the little girls together  
almost beside them -  
sever with impatience.

With an effort the  
Empress recovered her  
self possession took  
up the letter again  
and read in a shaking  
voice:-

9605

9606

Dear Madam

In reference to your petition for help concerning the 'ghost' house of Mr. Sesernan which you sent to us through our President Mr. Lawrence Wentworth some few days ago our investigators have been there secretly looking over everything, and we would say that we too have given the place careful examination, and are so impressed by the frightful condition of the magnificent place, that by special wireless we have notified the Pope at Rome who

has sent a delegation of famous Bishops over here who will be very glad to hear from you further on the subject when they arrive. They positively can do something to help you and your friends clear the place and will be immensely pleased to make some satisfactory arrangement with you in regard to fighting the fiend most successfully.

Awaiting your reply  
we remain,

Wentworth and  
Company Publishers

9607

And I did it I did it all" robbed Jennie her arms tight around her mother's neck. "Oh mother dear I'm so happy, I didn't know anybody in the world could be quite so happy. It was my secret. Mary's sister Margaret saw some awful phenomenon which she could not explain, and was so scared she came in to us for protection and I was so unhappy about it I couldn't bear to tell my

9608

sisters or you. Gladys was here when Margaret was so awfully frightened and she felt so sorry she said she would bring her to her father and get some explanation. It was such a relief for I knew every one would think nothing unusual had happened and would keep a hoping all the time all was all right and Gladys said she would ask her dad

9609

to be sure he would do something for Margaret and help us out. Gladys father told us after his interview with Margaret to keep away from the empty dining room on the second floor where Margaret saw the horrid phenomena. Oh I've been so excited about it and when you said you were going to write to the Pope of Rome we were frightened

9610

8

badly. Oh mother darling I dont know what makes me cry but I'm so proud and so happy too I dont think I know quite what I am doing."

It was more than two days now since that memorable never to be forgotten evening, and in the meantime many interesting and wonderful things had happened.

In the first place the delegation of



9611

Bishops were really coming, and if the next coming battle against the fiends proved as much a success as the very publishers confidently hoped there was a prospect of fame and honor and glory for her daughter and son such as the good Empress had never dared even in her most sanguine moments to hope for.

As for Permod and

9612 8

his sisters, their hearts were almost bursting with just pride and happiness. But it would be some time yet before the delegation of Bishops from Rome would be in Chicago as the steamers they were on were yet 1000 miles out at sea, and meanwhile the Empress being a sensible cautious woman dared not run the risk (to) of pressing things to over-presumption again.

9619

the pottengists of  
Sese mams crazy house  
and not with stand-  
ing all the entreaties  
of her children was  
firm in her deter-  
mination to let the  
Grappin house go to  
the 'dogs' for a few  
weeks as long as  
she and her daught-  
er and son stayed  
with Gladys in the  
city of Evanston.  
After it is all  
over we will take  
a nice long holi-  
day before you  
return to camp life.

9614

8

and annoy the enemy  
again" she said "and  
too when we are fun-  
ished with Mr Sese-  
mams house we will  
go off to Abbeamma  
to gether and be hap-  
py in annoying the  
glan delurians as  
long as the war goes  
on.

Miss Scott thinks  
we may be able to  
get the demons out  
of this house before  
summer is over, she  
is going to inquire  
about it for us when  
she goes to the Holy

9612

or so of the little  
Virnians would steal  
away by herself and  
indulge in a little  
quiet cry.

"I know. I'm very  
silly" Jennie explai-  
ned to Sarah when  
the maid came upon  
her suddenly while  
thus engaged one  
after noon "but you  
see it's just the  
time when we would  
start our spat with  
the evil ones of  
Mr. Besseman's house,  
and - and we  
were always there

9618-8

and I can't help being  
afraid they'll take  
advantage of our absence  
just even a little even-  
though Miss Scott said  
they wouldn't and the  
place will be worse  
than ever when we  
go back."

And on this par-  
ticular day too Jennie  
Jennie wrote a long  
letter to her absent  
father. It was writ-  
ten in the queen-  
albreannian lan-  
guage and to us  
people of the United  
States they appear

9619

as the words of Latin in a Catholic Prayer book, but to her father those Latin words were as intelligible as any ordinary American writing would have been, and his handsome face brightened wonderfully.

As he read the pleasant things that were continually happening at Evanston.

Now on the second day Mr Wentworth had taken the children for a sail in his beau-

9620

8

tiful lake yacht, and here on the third day they had gone to Fort Sheridan to see the fort and soldiers there and not only making the excursion into an all day picnic but also had created quite a sensation, awe and curiosity among the soldiers by their beauty, grace of manner and the extraordinary golden hair.

There was one fact which Jennie did not mention in

9621

her letter and that was that two days after her arrival Sarah had received a telegram telling of the serious illness of her older sister, and begging her to come at once.

Sarah was a very conscientious woman, and it was not without a great deal of reluctance that she decided to leave her (two) little charges, but her sister needed her and of course she had to go. Mr.

9622

Wentworth was also somewhat disturbed as none of the other servants were particularly reliable, and he knew from experience that his little daughter was not always to be depended upon so far as not getting into mischief was concerned.

He looked rather grave until Sarah with a sudden inspiration suggested that they might send for Miss May. A telegram was

9623

dispatched, and was speedily answered. Mrs May would be glad to come and would be in Evanston on the following morning.

Gladys was delighted she really liked her good natured young governess especially when there was no danger of lessons being suggested, and at present she was not afraid of that as papa had promised to say a word to Miss May on the subject of

9624

holidays with with the little Verrans

The little Verrans, looked a little troubled.

"I suppose Miss May is very nice," Jennie said "but we do like Sarah even if she is a little fussy sometimes, and our father said he was happy about letting us come because he was sure Sarah would take such good care of us and mother? wonder if it would be wrong if I didn't say anything to father about it. If I



2625

do he will worry."

"Of course it wouldn't" said her mother and Gladys confidently. "It's too bad about Sarah's mother" Gladys added "and I am very sorry though she does scold awfully sometimes and it's awful to have your mother sick, but just wait untill you see Miss May."

Miss May arrived the very next day and although she was very kind and pleasant

2626

8

and much more inclined to let people do as they liked than Sarah still violet and her sisters, and also their brother found themselves thinking regretfully of the absent maid and did not agree with Gladys when that young lady remarked that she wished Miss May were going to live with them all the time and that Sarah's mother might require her daughters service

9627

for the rest of the  
spring and all through  
summer too. It was  
a very warm April  
afternoon and the  
eight little girls were  
comfortably settled on  
the Wenthworths broad  
piazza, Jennie lying  
in the hammock,  
her sisters either seat-  
ed on the steps or  
in chairs. Paul

Permod playing  
checkers with Welles  
George, Angelina and  
Margaret's sister  
while Gladys, cur-  
led up in a big

9628

8

wicker arm chair  
read aloud from the  
road to Oz. All the  
bright color had come  
back to her cheeks  
and if Miss Scott  
had seen them that  
day she would have  
no cause to com-  
plain of the children's  
lack of appetite.

Gladys had been  
reading aloud for  
about two hours and  
a half and her  
eyes and voice were  
both rather tired  
so having read  
on reached the end

9629

of her story, she looked up from her book and indulged in a mighty yarn.

"That's a very nice story and I like the manner in which they got away from those scoundrels," said Jennie, "but I'm afraid you're tired."

"Yes I am a little. I guess I won't read any more now. What shall we do next?"

"Would you like to play imaginary people?" Jennie inquired.

smooths his after

amped startling

ack smooths & bother."

ed "I wish I grew on when they have to

I won't take us to Chicago?"

d at that she ad head-

9632

ache? wouldn't like to ask her would you?"

"No? suppose we couldn't. And anyway there isn't any need. We know the way, it only costs twenty cents there and back, and we could go just as well by ourselves. And you sure have the day."

"But I thought Sarah said we couldn't go alone the other day?"

"Oh bother about Sarah, she's just an old fuss. Of course

9633

its all right for us to go. Chicago is only a little ways itll take one forty minutes to get to the loop. and you can take care of me as well as any one else come along, I'll get our hats and we ll have some fun you're good sisters and brother can come too if they wish."

But still Jennie looked doubtful.

"I dont think we ought to go without asking Miss May,

9634

and of all Pernod first" she said with decision "if we go without saying anything, Pernod and my sisters might be frightened as we have many secret enemies because our country is in a war. We must never go anywhere without telling them first. And look out for Pernod if you make him angry."

Gladys seemed to consider this a rather

9635

unnecessary proceeding but as Jennie being in the right, firmly refused to move, untill the governess had been informed, and her brother and sisters too, Gladys finally yielded, and ran up the stairs, to obtain the required permission.

Miss Mays door was closed but in answer to Gladys rather impatient knock, a sleepy voice called loudly "Come in", and as

9366

9636

the little girl entered the room the governess, who was lying on the bed, with a novel and a bottle of smelling salts looked up to inquire -

"What do you want Gladys?" was just falling asleep and I have such a wretched headache?"

"I am sorry I woke you up" said Gladys "but I just came to ask if Jennie and I may go to the city for half the day, we're tired of

9637

staying on the piazza  
and we can't have the  
pony, because he's gone  
to be shod."

Miss May laid  
down her novel and  
took a wiff of the  
smelling salts.

"Why yes I suppose  
you may," she said a  
little doubtfully. "I  
don't believe you'd  
better go alone though,  
can't Sissy go with  
you?"

"No she's ironing  
and anyway I don't  
want her, she'll  
take us to parts

9638

of the city we don't  
want to go. Jennie  
will take good care  
of me, and we'll be  
all right."

"Well if you are  
with the Vroman angel  
I don't really see  
what could possibly  
happen to you in  
the big city. Will  
you be very care-  
ful crossing the  
streets as the auto  
drivers don't care  
whether they run  
you down or not,  
and be sure you  
don't go to those



9639.

filthy movies, I would go with you myself but my head really is very bad, and if I keep quiet this afternoon it may be better by dinner time." And Miss May passed her hand wearily across her head.

Gladys readily gave the required promise and also getting the permission from Jennie's brother and sisters flew off in high spirits to get her

9640

hat. Five minutes later the two little girls were on the Evanston Express heading for the big city.

In forty minutes they left the station at Lake Street, and were soon trudging along the street towards the crowded hand in hand in the direction of the best part of the city.

It was really very hot in the sun and Jennie who like her sisters do not like hot

9641

weather and often prefer winter could not help thinking regretfully of the cool piazza and the hammock, but she was too good natured and too fond of Gladys to make any objections to her friends plans for their amusement.

So she walked on cheerfully, listening to Gladys merry chatter and only remarked when they took a Taxical going west on Jackson

9642

and had been riding for nearly a half hour that where ever Gladys was going seemed rather further off than she had supposed the day they went on their auto.

"There's another place that's even so much shorter" said Jennie but I don't like to take it alone without Pennod, or Evans because it's through Mr Sesemann's property on Jackson Boulevard."

"Whos Mr Sesemann?"

9643

Gladys inquired.  
 "Oh dont you know?  
 He's the man who  
 owns the house which  
 is possessed next to  
 your papas property.  
 You know the place  
 yourself and we  
 all know its the  
 worst most disagree-  
 able place in the  
 world".

"Oh I know now,  
 but didnt think,  
 he owned it. I thought  
 Miss Scott did.  
 admitted Gladys.  
 "Every body" afraid  
 of the property

9644

8

except me and Sarah.  
 They say he never  
 has any hope of any  
 one being able to  
 help him; and that  
 now there isnt a  
 single person that  
 likes him because  
 they blame him  
 for the whole thing".  
 "Oh the poor old  
 gentleman" excla-  
 med Jennie "how  
 dreadful I dont  
 see why every  
 body blames him".  
 "It isnt his fault.  
 It must be terribly  
 lonely for him if

9647

is right across the aisle from mine, and yet he looks so worried, and down hearted it makes me sad. Saw

Sunday we had a strange Clergyman Father Wimsdale I believe who talked from the pulpit very slowly.

And he preached in such a way about the devils and their way, I was so scared I nearly went under the seat.

Sizzie our waitress says the spirits have such a dreadful

9648

temper she thinks they wouldn't mind killing trespassers with a phenomenon when they're angry.

But here we are the Rock Island railway station. Where we get out for a while. Don't you feel its getting cooler and look at the big clouds they're worth watching.

The two children were soon established in a shady nook behind the railroad station.

9649

on the street near where Jackson Boulevard turns deep in the interest in occupation of looking at the autos and people going by.

Then after a while Gladys suggested going to pay a visit to Miss Scott near Seseman which they did.

They had quite a stay with the landlady and the afternoon slipped away without either of them realizing the flight of time,

9650

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until Gladys suddenly exclaimed with some anxiety as they started for the street: "Why how dark its getting. It cant be very late, but the suns gone in. I wonder if its going to rain?" "I thought I heard a few rumbling sounds at a distance within the last few minutes" said Jennie. "Do you suppose it could have been thunder?"

"I guess wed better start for some place

9650

to get a taxi for the Lake Street Elevated Station anyway" said Gladys. "It does look pretty black but if we hurry we will be all right."

They continued on swiftly. It certainly was unusually dark for the time. Gladys was sure it could not be much after five o'clock - but heavy black smoke colored clouds were coming very swiftly from the cat's corner northwest and they

9651

had not taken three steps when the rumbling sound, Jennie had mentioned was heard again and this time there was no doubt about its being thunder and lightning flashes were seen northward.

A severe April thunderstorm was hurrying forward.

"Here really is going to be a shower" said Gladys, hurrying her companion along. "Afraid!" "Are you afraid of thun-



9652

storms?"

"No, but I shouldn't like to get wet besides wouldn't Miss May be dreadfully frightened, and my brother and sisters if we didn't get home before the storm.

Look at that big wall of ink black clouds with a rolling white front coming on as if on a big race. Couldn't we take that short way you spoke of?"

Gladys hesitated but at that moment

9653

8

there came a louder peal of thunder than before, and a sudden thunder wind squall began to blow cool and chilly.

I guess we'd better take a chance. Gladys said with a nervous glance at the rapidly darkening sky. I don't believe the barometers will see us we don't have to pass very near the house.

Do you suppose the evil spirits would really do anything

9654

to us if they did?"

Gladys inquired.

"I shouldn't know for sure about you Gladys, but I shouldn't like to try without sacramental about me. The demons got such a dreadful temper every one says and we have a big sign warning people to keep out if they value their lives."

"Perhaps we ought not to go in the place alone if the spirits don't allow people." Gladys said a little men

9655

8

uously" I was warned once by unseen spirits and they threatened to kill me if I should come in again. I was in here with George Stanislaw and his sister when he ran away and deserted us. But I wouldn't run if I did hear them coming again."

But Jennie had already turned on at the iron gates enclosed the grounds of Serebarns haunted property, and fired by the spirit of real

9656

adventure, and not afraid of the demons she had no intention of turning back.

"I don't believe the evil spirits will see us" she repeated reassuringly. "it looks so much like a big April storm they will be sure to be in the house, as I heard even spirits don't like to be in rain. We must not stop on the way though its getting blacker and blacker every minute."

Gladys quickened her

9657

8

pace to a run as she Jennie spoke, but Jennie almost outdistanced her saying "we'll be out of these grounds in a few minutes and our is the next place. I hurry hear how its thundering, and see that gray in the distance behind the black. That's the rain shroud. You can't run worth a cent can you?" she added somewhat nervously, dragging Gladys along the cement side walk like path.

"No I'm afraid I can't

9658

panted Gladys we  
we almost home".

"Stopa stopa for ze Deevens  
sake, both of youse.  
Dont go nees zat stree".  
For Gods sake stopo, do  
youse hear a me. Eet  
goim keel you"

At the same mom-  
ent there came a very  
loud terrible sound  
from a big tree only  
a few yards away  
from them, the  
mighty terrible Elm.

It was an awful  
moment Gladys  
seeing the action  
of the tree stepped

in the ground  
never was  
in them.  
mbered when  
lying at  
in the  
of home.

moment  
e found  
lone with  
ear the  
acting tree  
od quite  
tting for  
nd scarce  
ing what  
appeared.

e she  
stretching

9661

8

out her hand (n) towards  
the tree "Jennie what  
is the matter with that  
tree? Jennie what is  
it doing? Oh Jennie please  
what is it doing?"

Jennie gave no answer  
but gently pushed  
her back out of harm  
was, as a branch was  
reaching for her.

The thunder was  
now louder and  
nearer and the  
wind fiercer. Could  
it be that the  
tree had gone crazy  
Gladys gave a little  
frightened sob and

9662

retreated back wards:  
 She ran back half a  
 dozen steps, then stop-  
 ped. What was that  
 tree really going to  
 do?

She did not know.  
 Supposed one of the  
 branches of the tree  
 had grabbed her  
 then what would  
 have happened?

At that moment  
 her quick ear caught  
 the sound of steps  
 approaching and  
 believing it was  
 an unseen spirit  
 and remembering

9663

8

the warning of one  
 would have given a  
 terrified shriek and fled  
 at full speed in the  
 direction of the gate,  
 had she not turned  
 around and observed  
 it was a big power-  
 ful looking man  
 approaching rapidly.

"Get een a good thing  
 you're two leedle  
 kids stopped when  
 I told youse" he  
 said. "D'eed ze not  
 see ze soign on  
 ze gate wheeck  
 w arms of ze  
 danges heah? On

9664

do youse mean to  
deefy ze eevil spirits  
eh?"

The foot steps were  
close at her side  
and a big heavy but  
gentle hand was laid  
on her shoulder. In  
the darkness caused  
by the dark storm  
clouds he did not  
recognize the two  
children.

As the tree grew  
worse and started  
stretching its trunk  
forward Gladys gave  
one more frightened  
sob, then resolutely

9665

8

stood still to defy the  
peril; - the little girl  
was no coward.

"I'm very sorry" she  
faltered, "we wanted to  
catch a' bus before the  
storm and we thought  
perhaps the spirits would  
not see us for once  
this way was so  
much shorter."

"Youse thought the  
banshees weel not  
see ze deed youse?  
We'll zat see what  
youse think. Now  
leesteen and moind  
youse pay attent-  
ion to what I say,



9666

Ze liddle Veerram put  
up zat sign because  
to warn foolish reck-  
less people to keep  
out of 1 zis dangerous  
place, and ze dee-  
mon's whether zay  
like ze sign or not  
do just a same een-  
teend to have ze  
sign respected. too.  
Zay possess zis  
crazy place and  
zare for wont have  
zis grounds torined  
bernilo ze pooplick  
thorough fare, zay  
wont have ze  
flower beds tramp-

9667

8

led on and ze fruit  
stolen. Now for your  
own safty sake geet  
along an faust as  
ze can. I wont let  
ze demon do any-  
thing but I warn  
to warn youse two  
eef eether youse or  
your friend try to  
walk across zis path  
again, and zare es  
no one to help  
youse, or no boddie  
to protecto youse,  
youse can be  
prepara to taka  
ze consequences  
zat es all".

9668

The big hand was removed from Gladys' shoulder but the children still stood motionless.

"Weel wos are ye waiting for ze leedle fools? Do youse wan ze eerle speerits to keel youse an zay deed to two odder leedle gals or are youse trying to defy them?"

"No oh no no" gasped Gladys "but you see we are too close to the tree and I dont know

9669

8

what it'll do if we dare pass it again."

"Weel I ges youse'll geet pawst eet eef youse try. Now be off before ze deemons geet youse, and dont let ze crazy deemons heah an odder word."

He was actually turning away Gladys and Jennie went towards the gate but a phenomenon occurred to it, that would not let it open.

Gladys clasped her hands in despair and Jennie

9700

cried out in anger. Already the first big drops of the threatened storm were beginning to fall and the first loudest crash of thunder came pealing along the sky.

Jack Evans for it was him took half a dozen steps then turned his head to see if his advice was taken.

To his amazement he saw that the children couldn't get the

9701

gate open, so he rushed there, and seized the gate with no gentle hand.

"I'll open the gates for you" he said, but strong as he was they did defy him too.

"I'll teach those deemons way eat me" he began savagely but Gladys cut him short.

"Oh please please don't do anything foolish" she cried "I don't want anything

9702

to happen to you,  
besides they wont  
obey you, you cant do  
anything to them,  
and we could go out  
some other way, in-  
deed we could, but  
you see its starting  
to rain now and  
we might as well stay  
here".

The grip on the  
gate loosened, Jack  
Evans hand drop-  
ped to his side.

"Wanta stay heah?"  
he repeated "why  
ze deemons would  
throw youse offa

9703

zis place an eef youse  
were tramps. But zat  
leedle flem of youse"  
he added in a differ-  
ent tone "heern een  
not sceered either  
ees she?"

"Oh no sir" said  
Gladys. "she is Gerrie  
a friend of mine,  
shes visiting with  
me in Evanston  
you know. Just now  
we were visiting  
at Miss Scotts  
and we saw a  
thunder shower  
coming, and we  
were running to

205-8

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come

now th-

but

frad e

to

ter

9706

and I didn't believe that the demons - that is I mean any kind of spirit would really do anything to us.

The stranger made a queer in noise in his throat which sounded to Gladys something like a suppressed chuckle and he said:

"Well you'll be caught by zem whether you expect to be or not. If I don't do something, you

2202

8

fore you are even nodding for you to do now, but come with me. It is beginning to rain already and I don't propose to stand here and be drenched. Come along."

Gladys gave a little frightened sob but there was no resisting the firm grasp of Jack Evans' hand and in another moment the two children were being led rapidly along the board cement walk in the direct-



9708

ion, from that which she and Jennie had been walking.

Jack Evans walked very rapidly, and Gladys, not Jennie had hard work to keep up with his long strides.

Not another word did he utter until they reached the house, and indeed they were only just in time, for as they stepped on the piazza there was a round flash of light-

9209

8

ning, a terrific long rolling explosion of thunder that reverberated the sky the sudden coming of a blinding rain, with a hurricane-like gale, and the storm burst in all its fury.

Still in silence Evans led the children into the first floor wide hall of Mr. Sersmanns crazy house the largest and handsomest house in all that section of the city.

9710

Gladys was panting from her rapid walk and her heart was still beating very fast but there was certainly some comfort in finding herself under shelter and with her natural politeness she felt it incumbent upon her to thank her grim companion.

"You're very kind" she said a little timidly "I'm ever so much obliged to you for bringing

9711

8

us out of the rain" At this instant there came a crack of thunder that made the windows tremble.

"Get down" said her new acquaintance pushing her not ungently onto a sofa, where she leaned back among the soft cushions feeling all at once very tired and rather queer.

Mr Evans stood for a moment looking down at the little figure with a rather puzzled

9712

curious expression in his clear gray eyes. He then looked at the other and recognizing Jennie, winked at her, and slyly motioned to her to go into the other room for a few minutes, which she did.

Evans to Gladys was a very tall erect gentle man.

"Are you scared of his house even now?" he asked abruptly.

Gladys gave

9713

a little start, the question came so suddenly, but her answer was prompt enough.

"No sir" she said.

"You're not eh? You were afraid of the big Elmum tree a few minutes ago?"

"Not very much?"

said Gladys, "I couldn't help being a little just at first, but even then I didn't believe that old tree would really do anything bad to us if we kept out of its reach."

9714

A grim smile stole over the grim hard-some face.

"Eet strikes me 3 at youse een rather a courageous person" he said I beleve zis beelving have not ze reput ation of being ze very amma-ble old partee all ze people een zis neebor hood seem to shan een ze geemeral opeenion."

"I am only nine years and six months" said Gladys coloring "I am six

9715

months younger than Jennie, and then you see I aint used to taking care of myself but the little Virian girls are, though I didnt think them fit for that sort of thing

"3ay are though, 3ay can eever take care of ze odder peepke. Who do youse beel ong to any way? I nevare saw youse in zis neebor hood before did I?"

"No sir" said Gladys "But I live next door to this place."

9716

my parents moved to Ewamston for the summer and Perrod and his sisters came to stay with me for several weeks, I live in that marison next door west.

"Oh zat es eet Weel now I'll tell youse something. I rather lika ze people who es not afraid of ze evil speerts. Zay dont eat leedle girls youse know, even eef zay are deengerous some-times, and zay have

9717

8

no power over ze leedle Veerians, and youse are all right when wiggem. Youse es perfectly safe heah. An joost as soon as zis shower es over, I'll see zat youse geet home all right wuz gemme. Now shall I call zare house keeper to looka after youse a weel youse stay, heah wuz me?" I think if you dont mind I'd rather th-like to stay here.

Very good, youse es not asceered of ze thummen streams



9713

are you?" as at the fury of the moment, a most thunder storm evening crash filled Gladys was left alone for the solitude of the

"Oh no sir. not five minutes all when I'm in which she heard 'Seems to me yap, tap, of an' 'er not afraid, as if he came coming many things, along, and a hoops you're in the wall like something it were going to set'."

Gladys said something unseen was not through a slight but her new form that wind who seemed in her as it odd way released by swiftly. trying to be her a down kind and hospitable her opened

9716

8

and an elderly woman carrying a tray made her appearance.

At sight of the only occupant of the hall the woman started back in evident surprise and uttered a little startled exclamation -

"Good lands, what in the world!"

"I beg your pardon" said Gladys rising. "I suppose you're surprised to see me. Mr. Evans brought me in to wait



9717

till the shower is over."

"Well I never, ejaculated the woman in a rather low voice, then recovering herself she added in a different tone:

"Then I suppose its for you that Mr Evans ordered the milk and cake. Do you like fresh fruit cake?"

"Yes very much thank you but I'm really not at all hungry.

9718

I told Mr Evans I was not."

"I guess you can eat fruit cake even if you're not very hungry. Here's a nice glass of milk too. Help yourself, why, what's the matter?" As Gladys put out her hand seemingly with a timid uncertain movement.

"It's nothing" said the child smiling. "Only would you mind helping me with something whose I won't let me reach."

9719

for it. Something seems to hold my arm back".

"Something unseen holding your hand back? Oh you poor little thing" there was no mistaking the kindness and pity in the housekeeper's tone "that accounts for his doing it of course, he's got a kind heart whatever people will say" and in another moment the old woman was

9720

on the sofa beside Gladys holding her glass and helping her with as much tender mess as though she had known her for years.

The fruit cake certainly was delicious and the cold rich milk was also most refreshing. Gladys found herself relishing her unimpromptu lunch exceedingly. And she was soon chattering away to the Virians. A good matured house-

9721

keeper quite as though they were old friends. He did not know that Jack Evans himself was standing in the doorway and watching her intently while she talked and ate and always with that same curious, puzzled expression on his eyes.

Gladys told about Permod and his sisters of her pets about the many pleasant experiences (all) of the first few days about

9722

her parents and her home next door to the crazy house.

The house keeper listened and asked kind questions, and every few moments stole anxious furtive glances at Jack Evans standing still and rigid in the doorway.

The storm was slackening up by now, and suddenly there was a sound of approaching wheels and a closed automobile clashed

9723

up to the main gate. Mr Evans stepped out onto the piazza as a man came running up the sidewalk path unmindful of any danger he might have faced.

"I beg your pardon (Mr) Evans" said a voice which Gladys recognized as Pernod, "but my sister and Gladys. Can you tell me where to find them?"

"They're all right" said Evans in

9724

8

his own language which Gladys didn't understand "I brought them inside out of the rain."

"I am very much obliged to you" am sure" said Pernod hurrying up the steps "Oh here they are" as Gladys and Gemmie, led by the house keeper, came smilingly forward "well Gemmie dear I hope you and Gladys have not tried to scout the demon out by your

9725

relieve?"

"Oh no indeed" said Gladys eagerly and Mr Evans and the housekeeper have been so kind. Were your sisters worried about us?"

"They were worried all right," said Evans rather seriously. "The storm was terrible at Evanston. I don't know what I could make out from Mr Wentworth. I gathered there was a probability of your being found

9726

8

somewhere in this neighborhood, so I came for you as quickly as I could. We had better be going now. The shower is nearly over and Miss May was on the border of hysterics when I left."

Permod spoke hurriedly and there was a sternness and impatience in his manner which even his sister Jennie had never noticed in it before. The fact was he



9727

had learned enough  
of the gang, on in  
the city concerning  
the Crazy house from  
Evans' newspaper  
to feel very much as-  
shamed of the people's  
conduct and Jennie  
and Gladys being  
here had not tended  
to soothe his feel-  
ings.

Already poor Jesse-  
man was facing  
a law suit because  
of his haunted  
manion and Pen-  
nod inwardly re-  
solved that these

9728

people should receive  
a lesson that they would  
not forget in a hurry.  
He was going to counter-  
attack that lawsuit. Gladys  
and Jennie turned to  
say good bye to Evans  
and Mrs Jerry.

"I'm ever so much  
obliged to you sir"  
Gladys said holding  
out her hand after  
she had thanked  
the house keeper  
for her kindness. "I  
hope you wont mind  
if other people are  
afraid, they dont  
know this place

9730

red Gladys  
said abruptly,  
"You can see  
your friends  
mons do not  
the girls even  
to object to  
on property  
as belong  
and see youse  
walking  
way again  
"ou" said  
lately "I should  
come and  
again very

Pennod hurry



9731

hurried her and Gemmie away into the auto mumbling at the same time a few hurried words of thanks to his friend Evans.

Gladys was already in her seat and the chauffeur was starting the machine when Evans who had followed his guests as far as the front gate suddenly called out in his loud imperious voice:

"Wait one minute, you have not told me your name!"

9732

The auto was already moving but Gladys leaned eagerly forward "Gladys Mortimer Wentworth" she called as loud as she could.

Permod was very silent during the short drive although he also was very kind, keeping his sister and Gladys well protected from the rain and four times expressing the hope that they had not been very much frightened. Gemmie did

9733

not suspect the reason for this silence until they had reached home, and Miss May repentant and nervous had taken the two little girls indoors.

Then just as they were all on their way upstairs to dress for dinner Mr. Wentworth called Gladys back.

"Come into the library with me Gladys," he said convincingly. "I have something very important

9734

to say to you."

Gladys turned and followed her father into the library. What happened during that interview, no one ever knew, but it was a very sorrowful subdued Gladys who came out of that room some twenty minutes later and made her way slowly and disconsolately upstairs.

Jennie and her sisters were in their pretty little room next to Gladys

9733

nursery brushing their hair when they heard their friends step and all called cheerfully.

"Is that you Gladys? When have you been?"

"Down stairs with papa" said Gladys pausing in the doorway. Her voice sounded as if she had been crying and they all turned in surprise, Violet coming forth the hair brush still in her hand.

"Why Gladys what

9736

the matter?" she exclaimed.

"Nothing" said Gladys shortly and was turning away when with one of her sudden impulses, she changed her mind came back and threw her arms around her friends neck and burst into a perfect tempest of sobs and tears.

"Oh princesses princesses" wail the little girl "I'm so afraid so dreadfully afraid." "Afraid of what?" in-

9737

quired Violet in growing bewilderment while her sisters looked on in amazement. "Oh Gladys dear, what is it what makes you cry so?"

"Because Mr. Sesemann's house is so awfully bad beyond hope papa says, and the 'Octopus' telephoned papa that the powers of darkness are taking advantage of your not being there" sobbed Gladys.

"Some of the men who are not

2238

priests and who are supposed to keep the Octopus ran off and left him all alone in that dreadful house because they're afraid to stay, and papa says he's as scared of them. Oh dear, Oh dear, what shall we do? I don't want them to give up the fight. They'll all be despised."

Poor little Violet was terribly distressed.

"Oh don't, please don't Gladys darling" she

9739

pleaded, sobbing too  
from sympathy, and  
covering her friends  
tear wet face with  
kisses "no one can't  
help running away  
when they are so  
frightened. And it was  
my fault for not  
telling them to get  
out of the house  
until we returned."

"no, no it wasn't"  
cried Gladys, hug-  
ging Violet tight.  
you and your sisters  
and brother are  
dear brave beaut-  
iful persons and

9740

I love you all better  
than anybody in the  
world except papa and  
mamma. Those men are  
cowards, papa said so  
and he's dreadfully  
ashamed of them. He  
says cowards are always  
despised and if all  
these men will de-  
sert their post, you'll  
never win, I know  
you won't."

"none of us will  
lose out" said Jennie  
reassuringly "and  
your papa didn't  
mean he was  
really ashamed,



9741

I'm sure he didn't.  
 People can't help being  
 afraid of things some-  
 times. I and my  
 sisters were a little  
 bit afraid just at  
 first last January -  
 but oh Gladys we  
 needn't have been  
 we've been in there  
 all that time since  
 January and the  
 demons (~~not devils~~)  
 have not even  
 injured us, and  
 don't fear about  
 our Cousin Jack  
 Evans. The demons  
 fear him, and

9742

to little children  
 he's always as nice  
 and kind as can  
 be, and we've got  
 such a nice house-  
 keeper too.

Many times he  
 talks so loud it sounds  
 like he was angry  
 when he really  
 isn't, that's his voice  
 and he can't help  
 it, and I suppose  
 that's what makes  
 people afraid of  
 him.

I'd say you may  
 come and see  
 him again and



9743

I should - was now a well  
to very known character  
deed, but throughout the country  
protection and stories about its  
the spirit many oddities and  
always of fierce phenomena

and the violent  
deaths of two little  
girls, the seven  
hobos and the  
bad boy were  
subjects of a good  
deal of gossip.

"Is it really a  
very terrible house  
papa?" Gladys  
inquired that even-  
ing after dinner  
when she was

743

9746

comfortably established  
on Mr Wenthworth's  
knee.

Mr Wenthworth  
smiled.

"It is certainly a place  
of awful horror, so  
they say," he said.

"But I don't believe  
there is anything  
very terrible about  
it, to those who are  
not afraid of evil  
spirits. And from

what my little  
girl tells me Mr  
Evans is certainly  
a very eccentric  
gentleman and

9747

I don't believe the powers of darkness can do anything terrible to him. From what the little Virgins tell us I judge that he too is a saint and has an unusually kind heart and I think Mr Seseman had a good deal of trouble (about)

about that house and that may have caused him to really shun the place.

"What kind of trouble?" inquired Gladys to whom the terrible

9748

Grippin house had become a place of unusual interest and also awe.

"Well because the trouble with the house has caused so many people to move away from near by districts that the home owners blame him for it and are preparing to sue him. And then many would be brave persons who were supposed to help him

9749

nam away from the place without doing any thing. It has all happened (since the place became possessed but, I have heard about it from people who lived in the neighborhood at the time."

"Did Mr. Seseman always have that house on Jackson Boulevard?" Gladys asked.

"He had it build-  
ed about (there)  
thirteen years

9750

ago but I believe he bought the surrounding property as well, and that the Grappin house is a very beautiful manor, and of great importance to Society."

"I think Mr. Seseman's house is a very interesting building," remarked Gladys. "I wonder why it got possessed?"

"I don't know I'm sure," said Mr. Wentworth. "Although we have been neighbors for years I don't think

9251

I have ever exchanged more than a dozen words with the old gentle man. There are different theories as how it got in that condition, but they have no foundation: Jennie and her sisters have given us more information about the place than I have ever had before and show it up in a rather new light too. The building is extremely

9252

dangerous. Yet in spite of it do you still think you would like to call on Mr. Evans again Gladys? "Yes very much" said Gladys.

The next two days passed very promptly. Gladys too was really very ashamed of the conduct of those deserting the Octopus and his priestly helpers in their work and made many good resolutions.



9.15.3

for the near future  
some of which I  
fear many others  
would forget before  
very long but which  
she didn't

She was even  
much kinder and  
more devoted to Gen-  
nie and her  
sisters than before  
and the little  
princesses were very  
happy.

There was only  
one drawback to  
the perfect en-  
joyment of  
every body and

9.25.4

that was more un-  
usual news about  
these mad crazy  
house and Miss  
May who objected  
about the place  
was in consequence  
much less cheer-  
ful than at first  
and so afraid  
that even Gladys  
could not feel very  
sorry when towards  
the end of the week  
there came a letter  
from Sarah say-  
ing that her mother  
was better and  
that she hoped to

9755

to return to Evanston  
on Saturday.

"Sarah really is not  
so very disagreeable  
all the time" Gladys  
admitted, on the Sat-  
urday evening when  
Sarah had once more  
taken up her household  
duties and contrary  
to her frequently  
expressed opinion  
that sweets were very  
bad for children,  
had brought each  
of the little girls  
a box of "diploers".  
"I really think  
she might be

9756

quite nice sometime  
if she didn't talk so  
much about those hor-  
rid demon going to  
win on you little  
Virians. She has no  
faith."

"Is she really positive?"  
Gemmie inquired in  
surprise. "I thought they  
might be the easiest  
things in the world  
to lick."

"Well Sarah says  
you're about the best  
people in the world,"  
declared Gladys,  
"but she believes  
it will take more



1757

than you to throw them out. Yet I hate them spirits they're so terribly horrid and bad."

The next day was Sunday and as Miss May had left on the previous afternoon and Mr. Wentworth had gone to spend a few days with some friends Gladys and the Vivian children had their breakfast by themselves. Gladys had remarked

9260

before they morning. We could down stairs take "the" lives of the had heard saints and I could never that read such a lot to not account you" the Vivians "It would be nice ed it was indeed" assented extraordinary "but wouldn't nothing will make your head pen that was worse to read. very bad, - you had told me you had not at all had a headache" at all sup. "Oh no, it always and had feels better out in the made a rain but when I get ing allusion a hot stuffy place any dang it's dreadful some spirits of turns when I'm them to E in Church the mass

9261

and the sermons makes me forget it sometimes."

"Do you think Sarah would take us to the beach?" Angelina asked.

"No I guess not, not unless one of you little girls asked her. She'd do more for you than she would for any one else. Won't you tell her you and your sisters and Bernad want to go very much?"

"Yes if you want

9262

me to, but why doesn't she like to take us?"

"Why because it's Sunday of course. She hates to do things on Sunday, she says because they're wrong but I know it's just because she's got her best clothes on, and she's afraid of spoiling them. Oh dear? I do hate Sunday, any way don't you though? I love to go Mass every day."

"No indeed. I think Sunday is the nicest day in the whole

9763

Week. Our parents and we always have such happy times together on Sunday."

There was a little quiver in Jennie's voice as the recollection suddenly came over her that her father and mother must be spending a rather lonely Sunday to day.

The next hour passed very quickly. Gladys described the boats on the lake and Violet and her sisters made

9764

up interesting stories about the people who might be in them.

Then Sarah looking so prim and solemn in her black Sunday dress that it made the Viriams stare at her made her appearance.

"Come children its time to get ready for Church."

The Viriams rose obediently. Gladys who had not mentioned anything unusual for the past hour suddenly gave a start.

9765

"Oh Sarah, something wrong I've heard that strange sound again"

"Nonsense" said Sarah sharply "If you're imagining such stuff as that you must be getting ghost ideas into your head. Evil spirits from these men don't come here. Otherwise I think there's nothing wrong at all those superstitious notions of yours are getting to be a rather old

9766

story"

Gladly still hearing the strange sounds again, sprang to her feet with alacrity, on guard. The walk to Church was a rather silent one.

Sarah had very strict ideas respecting Sunday behavior, but had nothing on the little Virgins who walked in front of her hand in hand, and appeared the little angels

9267

they really were. Violet and her sisters thought about the "Crazy house" and then for some unknown reason or other Jennie suddenly had a very sad feeling as if she had done somebody a grave wrong, a stranger sadness than she ever had before since coming to the United States.

The strange unaccountable feeling of sadness increased rather

9268

than diminished, added by a strange unbelievable remorse, when they had reached the Church, and she with her brother and sisters found herself settled in one of the pews.

The sound of the organ made her still sadder somehow, though it had never done so before, and before she realized what was happening Jennie felt two big tears slowly trickling down her cheeks.

9769

She dashed them away as quickly as she could but almost before they were dry there were more tears in their place, and the little girl was forced to make a hasty search for her handkerchief.

"Gladys" and "Gemmie" sister absorbed in watching the mass, did not see what was happening but somebody else saw some one who from the moment when

9770.

the children had taken their seats had been watching the little girls intently though furtively from a pair of keen eyes which had not lost any of their keenness for all their own hazardous experiences of life.

Some one has been unkind to her" said the man to himself in his own tongue, "how dare they make princess Gemmie cry?" and he frowned so



9771

darkly and looked so very fierce that a small boy in a pew near by, paying 'more care' attention to every thing else but the mass felt sure the terrible man with the sharp eyes was frowning frowning at him and he nestled close up to his mother and hid his face on her shoulder.

But when the offertory of the mass was reached

9772

the strange sad feeling began to leave her. She remembered too all at once that her parents were probably attending that same mass though some distance away in Chicago, and the reflection seemed to bring her nearer to them.

A sense of peace and content stole unto her heart and by the time the sermon began she was her own bright,

9775

and held out her hand to Jack Evans the eccentric Abbeysman Baron who by now was known at least by sight to nearly every one present and who to the knowledge of every one present was the guardian and Cousin to the little Vivian princesses.

"Good morning" she said quite as pleasantly and naturally as if she had been addressing a good friend. "I see you are here and I want

9776

to speak to you."

Gladys at this moment heard the strange unaccountable sounds again and gasped. Even Sarah who had of course heard the story gave a slight start and instinctively put out her hand to draw Gladys away.

But Evans although he had not uttered a word had taken the child's hand and was holding it fast.

"I love to be with the Vivians" Gladys went

on innocently? have told them all about your goodness to me and what a nice time I had at Mr. Jeernann's 'crazy' house the other day. I hope their house keeper is well to day."

"Would you like to come and see her again?" Evans inquired brusquely.

He did not then look at Sarah but the eyes that rested on the two nearest little girls had nothing stern or

stern in their expression.

"Yes I should like to very much" said Gladys without the least sign of hesitation.

"Very well come here in spite of the evil spirits and dine with me then. I'll see that you get back to your fench all right this afternoon."

"May I go Sarah?" she asked turning to the maid.

"I think perhaps" began the maid showing more signs

9779

of embarrassment than were usual with her, but Evans cut her short.

"Youse neednt make um ze object, as youse have noddin' to say" he erupted "ef ze ~~cheed~~ child want to come she shall".

"As youse wish so of course" returned Sarah beginning to look offended "Gladys being left in my car and um Wenth-worth being away

9780

I thought-

"Feedlesteeks," interrupted Evans. "Do youse want to come wuz me child or not? We agreed ze 'odder day zat youse were not afraid of seeremans "crazy" house when wuz me."

"I should like it" said "that is" she added blushing if the little Virians and Sarah dont mind."

"We dont mind" said Jennie in a flutter of excitement "and Sarah doesnt

9781

mind either she only thinks she n got to object.

So the matter was settled as Sarah knowing what they were was afraid to go against the wishes of the little Virniam girls and the congregation were rendered almost paralyzed with stupefaction by the sight of the eccentric guardian of the Virniam girls fighting in a place the terror of all the city of Chicago

9782

calmly walking down the Church walk with Gladys and Jennie clinging to his left hand.

Paying no attention to the sensation she was causing Gladys chattered away happily to her companion telling him about the pleasant time she was having until just as they were turning from the street into the avenue that led to the S. station Evans suddenly

9783

interrupted Gladys with a question to Jennie.

"What were you crying for in church Jennie?"

Jennie gave a little start and the color deepened in her cheeks.

"I'm sorry you saw me" she said it was very silly, but I don't think I can explain it. There was no reason that I could see but I had a very sad feeling as if I had done somebody a serious

7894

9784

wrong when I didn't."  
"What made you have that feeling? Was it some more of the demons doing eh, all this way from Sesemann house eh?" (An Albrechtman)

"Oh no I don't think so" cried Jennie eagerly. "I never do believe the banshees can reach this far, but you see the feeling did come strangely - and well - - I couldn't help it."

"By the way you seem to be very



9785

fond of Gladys" continued Evans in Abbreannian "she's very good to you and your sisters? hope?"

"Good to us" echoed Gemmie "she's the very best friend next to Marjorie, and Sally in the world. Why she wants to take care of us."

Are your father and mother still there in the Worthworth house across from Mrs. Sese-mam?"

9786

"Yes they're staying there until we come back"

"But you've got the girls scouts there?" yet I suppose

"No they're still on the ground floor of Sese-mam."

Jack Evans asked no more questions and Gladys herself feeling suddenly a little shy, and uncomfortable, he lapsed into silence. Arriving at Sese-mam's after a long journey Evans

9787

led his little guest and Jennie into the parlor and once more on the occasion of Gladys' first visit, he called loudly for Mrs. Jerry.

The house keeper speedily made her appearance and greeted both little girls warmly.

She seemed rather nervous and flustered and her voice sounded so odd and unsteady that both little girls were puzzled

9788

at her the smart-  
not dress.  
to look  
to poss-

with have  
nicely.  
I am kind  
to rate  
up you  
h a

in? no  
it makes  
of had?  
oc your  
very  
take  
way

9790

my governess does when she has a headache, that's all. but I suppose I made a mistake. How very nice you brush my hair. do you like little girls?"

"Indeed I do especially little girls like you and the little children."

"Did you ever know any other place which was like Mr. Sessmann's house here?" Gladys inquired with deep interest and a little

9791

"How do you mean like this place?"

"Why possessed by spooks, demons, you know."

The hos house-keeper laid down her brush but her hand, still rested lovingly on Gladys' soft curls.

"No" she said, and Gladys was quite sure there was a tremble in her voice now. "I never knew any place like this."

Herseman, but Bernad's sisters did know a house

9792

at Mc Call's Run in California which was very much like this one.

"And just as bad?"

"Yes."

"Do you like the Indian princesses very much?" Gladys asked softly. Something in the house-keeper's tone made her feel sure that there was some unseen danger facing them in this 'crazy' house.

"I think I love them better than?"

9793

have ever loved any  
one else in this world.  
I am their nurse  
and I take care of  
them always whether  
in camp, here or  
where ever they go.

With a sudden im-  
pulse the old woman  
stopped and drew  
Gladys into her arms

"I love everyone  
who likes the little  
princesses and are  
friends to them"

she said, and the  
child could feel  
(the child) the  
hot tears on her

fore head. "I thought  
you would be a  
good friend to them  
the first time I  
saw you and so did  
Mr Jack Evans. I  
think that is why  
he asked you to come  
here with him to-  
day for he loves  
those little girls who  
are his cousins."

Gladys would have  
liked very much  
to ask where the  
once "crazy" house  
on Calvernia was,  
but something  
in the housekeeper

2293

Mamma made her  
sure something very  
peculiar was going  
on right in this place  
and being a very tact-  
ful child she  
wisely decided to  
ask no more quest-  
ions but she kiss-  
ed old Mrs Jerry  
and stroked her  
wrinkled face.

and then the  
house keeper dried  
her tears and  
they both went  
down stairs again.

They found  
Jack warm and

2226

Jennie waiting in  
the hall, and as din-  
ner was already on  
the table in the Virginia  
sage room he gave  
his arm ceremonious-  
ly to both little  
girls and led them  
into the dining room.

The dinner (not)  
was a rather solemn  
meal. Gladys felt  
very small and  
just a little bit  
uncomfortable, when  
she found herself  
seated alongside  
Jennie in the big  
leather armchair.

9792

opposite her host  
but she made a  
great effort to appear  
at her ease and  
neither Mr Evans  
who watched her so  
keenly nor the sol-  
emn butler Sebast-  
ian noticed any-  
thing beyond the  
fact that the  
visitor was trying  
to be as perfect  
a little lady as  
Gemmie herself  
was.

The dinner  
itself was very  
good and served

9793

in much more style  
than Gladys was  
accustomed to even  
at her own home.

There was a good  
many courses.

Evans did not talk  
very much him-  
self, but he seemed  
to like to hear Gladys  
talk, and the little  
girl mindful of  
her duties as a  
visitor really did  
her best to enter-  
tain the grum silent  
Abernethy whose  
eyes seldom left  
her face. One or



9799

twice she stopped thinking her host might prefer silence but he was sure to draw her out again by some adroit question so that before the dinner was over he had learned a good many things about Gladys and her life.

After dinner Evans took his little guest and Gemmie out onto the piazza and in a few minutes he asked them if they would like to go out

9800

into the garden to smell the spring flowers which he was succeeding in raising despite the banishes.

Gladys was delighted and Evans gave each little girl his arm again and led them away to what Gladys afterwards described to the other little Vivian as the most beautiful place she had ever seen in her life. Ahoo, though she did

7801

admit that the leaves  
of the big Elm tree  
did act mighty funny.

If Jack Evans had  
one passion it was  
his love for flowers.

He was always  
gentle and more  
like angelic people  
when he was in  
the garden.

He was very  
delighted with Gladys  
evident admiration  
of his favorites  
and he led her  
and Jennie from  
bed to bed  
letting her touch

7802

and smell to her  
heart's content and  
Jennie who always  
was also a favorite  
of flowers told her  
many interesting  
things about the  
different rare plants  
which Evans didn't  
know how to ex-  
plain in English.

Altogether that  
hour among the  
flowers was a  
very happy one and  
when they returned  
to the house Gladys  
arms were loaded  
with an enormous

7805

afraid of zis "crazy" ouse  
zen?"

"No indeed, not one  
single bit."

"And youse dont tank  
zis place es a dan-  
gerous as zay say et  
es, a child killer?  
believe zat es ze  
reputation et has  
among most of ze nei-  
ghbors."

Gladys laughed.

"I think you and  
also this house too  
are as good as it  
can be" she said  
"I like you both  
ever and ever."

7806

so much.

Chapter 71

Gladys birth day.

Bad news from Resemans  
Grappin.

"Are you not going to  
wake up soon Gladys  
you little sleepy head?  
Its most seven o-  
clock. We were up  
since four as we could  
nt sleep any more  
and I and my sis-  
ters came to wish  
you many happy  
returns of the day"

Gladys opened her

9807

eyes and put out one hand in a sleepy uncertain way. The hand touched Gladys' soft round arm, and Gladys became aware of the fact that her friend, still in her night gown, was sitting on the edge of the bed.

"What's the matter?" she inquired drowsily "is - is it morning?"

"Yes of course and oh Gladys have you forgotten what day it is?"

9808

Gladys sat up with a start.

"Why is it <sup>my</sup> birthday" she said laughing. "I remember now, but I was so sleepy I couldn't think of anything just at present. It seems only about ten minutes since I went to bed."

"7 to ten hours" returned Gladys. We were in bed when the clock struck nine, and now it's just striking seven. Do hurry up and get dressed. I want

9809

to show you your presents. and they're all down stairs."

"Presents?" exclaimed Gladys beginning a hasty search for her bath slippers. "You don't mean I'm really going to have presents do you?"

"Of course I do, doesn't every one have presents on birth days. It was awfully hard not to tell you about them last night when your papa came home

9810

and brought them from the city. They're such nice ones I know you will like them." Here was no need of urging Gladys to hurry after that. She was every bit as eager to see the presents as Jennie was to show them and made such rapid progress that in less than half an hour, the two little girls were racing down the broad oak staircase, Gladys making almost



9811

as good speed as her friend this time.

"Here they are" cried Jennie as they entered the dining room all on the table by your plate. May I open them or do you want to do it yourself?"

Gladys thought she would like to do it herself and Jennie stood by curbing her impatience as best as she could while the little Irish girl with fingers that trembled with

9812

pleasant excitement untied the parcels.

"Oh" cried Gladys rapturously as she unfolded the soft tissue from around the largest of the four packages.

"It's a doll, such a beautiful one, with long hair and a silk dress, just like my old Virginia that I used to have in the South."

"That's from me" said Jennie triumphantly "I described your Virginia to your papa and he tried



98/3

to get one just as much like her as he could. You said she was your favourite you know and I thought you'd like to have another just like her. She's got a red silk dress on and her clothes all come off and on.

"Oh thank you so much" said Gladys hugging her friend and her new treasure. at the same time it will be such fun to have her to play with when I'm by my-

98/4

self all day. I can talk to her and pretend she's my child. That'll be even so much nicer than playing imaginary people.

"But you have not opened your other presents yet, this one from your papa."

"Why what is it?" exclaimed Gladys in a rather puzzled tone. "It's a sort of large round box but there is not any place to open it. Here's a little key. Oh Jemmie

9815

"I do believe its a  
music box"

"Yes of course it is.  
I know you love it.  
I'll show you how to  
wind it, but let me  
do it the first time.  
I can so much quicker.  
Here, wont it pretty?  
Your papa brought  
it, but I picked it  
out and its the  
sweetest toned one  
they had in the  
store. I here are  
twenty five turns  
and you can  
get more any  
time you like."

9816

Gladly clasped  
her hands in rapture  
too intense for speech.  
"And here's something  
from Sarah. I know  
what it is, - for I saw  
her making it. Its  
a bag for you to  
keep your knitting  
on, and its awfully  
pretty too. Now here's  
another and it came  
by express it must  
be from your Aunt  
I'm sure."

"Its a handker-  
chief case and a  
dozen and a half  
nice new hand-

98/7

her cheeks" said Gladys touching the precious gift with loving fingers Aunt Aggie must have made the case herself in the evening, wasn't it good of her. She doesn't get so tired and it's such hard work for her to do anything these spring nights. Oh dear Aunt Peggy how I wish I could give her a great big hug. That certainly was a very delight-

ful for her a phonograph a handsome put them in? say ly was a hitful birth ever had. worth were satisfied thanks ed and my one kind n the her ab other nt could

98/8

not make Gladys sad for many minutes at a time. "Gladys said Jennie coming out onto the piazza about an hour after breakfast 'did you tell Jack Evans about today being your birthday?' "Yes" said Gladys pausing for a moment in the letter she was writing to her mother and Aunt. "he asked me how old I was and I said I

9819

would be ten today"  
"I wonder if he'll  
send you a present?"  
remarked Angelene  
herself sitting on a  
chair preparing to  
knit a pattern for  
her pillow. "Sarah  
thinks perhaps he  
will, he's so fond  
of you".

"Oh no" said Gladys  
"I'm sure he won't. I  
don't believe he  
even remembers  
I told him about it".

"Well he's awfully  
fond of you any  
way" persisted.

9820

Angelene: He asked  
you to dinner not sup-  
per last Friday and  
Saturday he took  
you for a drive and  
yesterday he sent  
you all those lovely  
flowers. Sarah and  
Sizzie were talking  
about it, and said  
he's getting to like  
you as he loves  
me and my dear  
sisters.

"But," added Violet  
dolefully "Sizzie  
heard rumor that  
the Odopus must  
be losing out in

9821

his work at Reese -  
mann Grappin house".  
"Oh dear? hope he  
is not" said Gladys be-  
ginning to look dis-  
tressed "what makes  
Sizzie think so?"

"Why because his  
helpers say there  
must be some-  
thing queer the mat-  
ter with the place.  
We should not have  
left it. Its getting  
worse. Oh here  
comes the express  
wagon. perhaps  
its another pre-  
sent for you"

9822

"I guess not" said  
Gladys smiling though  
she still looked much  
troubled "there is not  
any one else to send  
me one"

"Its a great big  
package any how"  
announced Violet  
with interest "I'm  
just going to see who  
it for and I hope  
its you"

She darted off  
but was back again  
in less than a  
minute crying  
crying excitedly:  
"Its for you Gladys"



9823

it really is. I saw  
your name Gladys Went-  
worth on the paper.  
Oh do come quick and  
lets see what it is."

Down went paper  
and pencil and away  
flew Gladys to the  
front hall. Where  
Sizzie the waitress  
was already writ-  
ing the cord from  
around the myster-  
ious parcel.

"Why its books"  
cried Violet as  
her sisters came  
up "great big  
books the kind

9824

you like Gladys they  
are that kind. I see  
the decorations on the  
covers."

With a joyful cry  
the Cwentworth. Went-  
worth child sprang  
forward and the next  
moment she was  
down on the floor  
hugging three large  
bulky volumes in  
a rapturous embrace.  
"One of them is 'little  
women'" she gasped.  
the book I've been  
wanting for so long  
and that Aunty was  
going to get for me



9825

when I returned home oh I'm so good and happy"

Do you suppose she sent it? Violet inquired to her look also. was very interesting articles but never theless she was a little surprised at Gladys de-light over the present.

"No I'm sure she didn't she wouldn't have sent it here and besides she sent the handkerchiefs and case"

9826

"Who do you suppose did send them then?"

"I think, I'm almost sure that it was your great Cousin Jack Evans. I told him how I loved reading and the kind of books I like best. Oh how good how awfully good he is." And to the amazement of Suzzie and the little Verham the little Wentworth child burst into tears. "Oh please don't mind me" she sobbed half crying and

9827

half laughing I know  
I'm dreadfully silly  
but oh I do love books  
so and to have this  
one I've been want-  
ing for so long it's  
all - just like a  
dream"

"I suppose you'd like  
to go to the city  
and thank Mr  
Evans for his pre-  
sent?" said Sarah  
coming into Gladys  
room later in  
the morning Gladys  
who was kneel-  
ing beside the  
bed turning the

9828

pages of her new  
book turned around  
with a start.

"I should like it  
very much indeed"  
she said eagerly "I  
didn't like ask you  
to take me be-  
cause I thought  
you were busy"

"Well I guess I  
can take you now  
you've been un-  
usually good since  
you are with these  
little saints. You  
won't want to stay  
long I suppose"

"Oh no, just only

9829

to thank him.  
I'm sure he might  
have sent me the  
book, he, the only  
person who knew  
anything about my  
wanting it. You see

Sarah said she  
thought it very pro-  
bable, especially  
as Mr Evans had  
already shown  
a desire to be  
very kind, and  
in a few min-  
utes they were  
on their way to  
Chicago on the  
Evansston Express

9830

Gladys had asked  
Jennie to accompany  
them but she de-  
clined the invit-  
ation saying she would  
rather hear about it  
when Gladys came  
back.

The front door of  
Sesemanns crazy  
house was opened  
by the solemn faced  
butler Sebastian,  
who in answer  
to Sarahs inquiry  
replied that Evans  
had gone to St  
Patricks Church, but  
was expected home

9832

all that  
ours and  
twelve  
be at  
party  
lunch"

used  
satisfied  
government,  
her -  
bley  
so of a  
ed pro-  
turn

cool  
it. Un  
am  
lady

9833

found the contrast to the warm April sunshine out of doors very refreshing.

She leaned in her corner of the big comfortable and gave herself up to pleasure and reflections.

How good every one was to her.

How delighted her mother would

be when she heard about little "Prudy" what a beautiful birth day she was having.

She was glad

9834

now that she had been able to persuade the little Verran to stay another week at Evermston as her father begged them instead of going back to the 'Crazy' house on her birthday, as had been the original plan.

It was only two weeks not hardly yet to say, until the first of May and Mrs Winthrop had fully insisted that things at Sese mams 'Crazy'

9835

house was said to be slacking down.

Mrs Scott had brought (be) back glowing accounts of the hope concerning the Sessmann house.

where on return Violet and her sister had decided to remain for a fortnight. Oh how delightful everything was going to be and how very happy she was.

Gladys wondered if many

9836

other little girls were quite as happy as she. These pleasant reflections were suddenly checked by the sound of approaching footsteps and voices.

Jack Evans had returned, and was speaking to some one whom he evidently found waiting for him.

"No I tell youse no, eet can't be done, eet es no usea to me to break an odder word on ze subject" was



9837

the first sentence which reached Gladys ears and there was no 'doubt that Mr Evans was really excited about something this time. He continued "ze 'crazy' case een more dangerous zan ever. No man weel be allowed to live een ze deestreet. I tell you."

At his last words the little girl started nervously and drew further back into

9832

her corner with a little irrepressible shiver. Then another voice "woman's voice was heard."

"But youse wont be after making us go to day while me little Nelly and Johnnie so sick they caunt laive their beds, and me that were out sitting up all night that its all I can do to hold me head up at all." "Weel youse rather be ze doo or ze beeg

9840

"fool" thundered Jack  
 Evans. "I've told you  
 before that Meestaire  
 Seese man's ouse es  
 very dangerous, and  
 by ze law no wan  
 es allow to live  
 een ze neebhood,  
 so I weel not hes-  
 iten to an odder  
 woid. Mees I cott  
 say she weel or-  
 der ze meen to  
 taka away your  
 furniture zis very  
 afternoon to  
 ze odder place  
 and sent youse  
 wif zern. Ze

9841

een dangered cottage  
 es to be cleared of  
 your belongings be-  
 fore to night. I've  
 warned you too many  
 times already. Youse  
 wond be able to stan-  
 any more shiftless  
 shilly-shallying  
 ways of ze demmons.  
 "And then ll what  
 will become of us"  
 wailed the woman  
 beginning to cry.  
 "Oh Master Evans  
 think of it me o  
 'wider' woman  
 with five little  
 childe, and no

9842

place to lay our  
heads and Johnnie and  
Nellie so sick. You  
know we always were  
never afraid of ban-  
shees, but what wid  
the children clothes  
we aring out and the  
washing coming  
in so slow - oh Mis-  
ter Evamon "dear" -

But already  
the front door had  
closed with a  
bang, and Evans  
steps were no-  
pidly approach-  
ing the parlor.  
"H'alloo" exclaimed

9843

the Abbieanna gen-  
tlemen catching sight  
of his little visitor  
as he entered the  
room, "so youse are  
corrie to see ze  
Abbieannian man  
again are youse? Zat  
er right weel how  
goes eet een ze world  
to day?"

Gladys, (full of)  
had risen and  
came slowly for-  
wards. She was  
very quiet and all  
the bright look of  
happiness had  
gone suddenly out

9844

of her face.  
 "I came to thank  
 you" she said, for the  
 books you know. I  
 am sure you sent  
 them."

Mr Evans laugh-  
 ed and he took Gladys  
 little hand in his.

"Weel suppose I deed?  
 what of eet? do  
 youse like zern?"

"Oh so very much.  
 better than any-  
 thing else you  
 possibly could  
 have given me."

"Weel now zat  
 es good, what

9845

es ze mat though?  
 youse look as eef zere  
 was somedung youse  
 didnt like, has any  
 body been mak-  
 ing youse cry again  
 Only let me found  
 out what eet es  
 and I'll —

"no oh no sn" in-  
 terrupted Gladys  
 with crimsoning  
 cheek - its nothing  
 at all - that is no-  
 body has done  
 anything wrong  
 to me only I  
 am so very sorry  
 for that poor woman"

9846

"What poor n mess Scotts board-  
 "The woman house and the  
 talking to or Authorities are -  
 Please dont lade ze order zat  
 about it, but zare safty every  
 nt help he odie are to move  
 what you say from ze dees-  
 and she set of ze ouse zay  
 to be in suz crazy  
 ful trouble. I eetecture Boins

Mr Evans told me zat  
 silent for a and her fam-  
 ment and y are gat to  
 looking outick out zis very  
 window did lay and zay mean  
 see the ex what zay say  
 ion on his ten two keeds are  
 Then he seen almost keeled  
 slowly anly ze miserable

9847

shiftless demons  
 already"

Gladys said nothing  
 but the blue eyes were  
 full of tears and she  
 kept her lips drawn  
 tight to keep from  
 quivering Mr Evans  
 saw the tears and  
 he tapped his foot  
 impatiently on the  
 carpet

"Not satis fied yet  
 eh? Weel what would  
 youse like me to  
 did, to have me  
 to done?"

"She said her  
 little boy and



9850

girl were sick"  
said Gladys softly  
"and there were five  
little children. Where  
will they go to when  
they have to leave  
your house?"

"My house? They are  
not at my house.  
but at Mrs. Scotts."

Surely those peo-  
ple have plenty  
of friends to take

care of them. Any-  
way let us make  
a fair of ours.

Now sit down and  
tell me all about  
these wonderful

9851

birthday presents"

Gladys sat down  
and began an account  
of the morning  
pleasures but the  
glad sound had gone  
out of her voice and  
more than once

she had to pause  
in her story in  
order to steady that  
trouble some little  
catch in her voice.

Mr. Evans watched  
her with a troubled  
look when Gladys  
had finally finished  
describing the birth-  
day presents there



9852

was a rather long pause Gladys found it necessary to wink rather hard to keep back the rebellious tears which every moment threatened to overflow.

Suddenly Jack Evans put out his hand and laid it on the little curly head beside him.

"I'm glad you like the books" he said and there was actually a note of em-

9833

barassment in his voice "I es not accusto to maken birthday presents to young ladies and I dont know always war what es most acceptable. I did geet ze book because you seem to thienk you might like to have eet but - weel ze fact es I wan to give youse something else besides"

"Something else besides" repeated Gladys in a tone of bewilderment.

9854

"Oh no Mr Evans  
indeed I should not  
like to have you  
give me anything  
more. The book is  
beautiful and I  
shall just love read-  
ing it but -"

"Never mind about  
the books I have  
made up my mind  
to give you some-  
thing else besides  
and I'd like to  
have you tell  
me what it  
shall be"

Gladys hesitated  
for a moment

9855

then her cheeks  
flushed and a light  
of sudden hope  
came into her face.

"Do you really really  
mean you would  
like to have me  
tell you what I'd  
rather have than  
anything else?" she  
asked.

"I genuinely mean  
was I say"  
"Then" she said  
slowly I would like  
better than anything  
else, yes better  
than anything  
you could possibly

9856

buy for me that  
you would tell the  
little princesses  
and ask them to  
let that poor wom-  
an and her little  
children stay in  
their own house,  
instead of Miss  
Scott's boarding  
house"

Gladys paused  
she was almost  
afraid to hear  
Evam answer  
but when she  
saw the ex-  
pression in  
the eyes looking

9857

down upon her  
she was not any  
more afraid. There  
was a moments  
silence then Jack  
Evam laughed.

Oh the relief  
to Gladys in the  
sound of that laugh  
"Weel you are  
caught me sure you  
are got your weesh"  
he said patting  
Gladys head and  
not with stand-  
ing the fact that  
he was laugh-  
ing his voice  
was not quite

9858

steady 7 are geervun  
my promise and  
youse are caught  
me in ze nap, I'll  
see zem and see  
ef zayll let  
ze woman stay  
on 3 are oure un-  
tel ze trouble een  
sese mann oure  
een over"

"Oh" said Gladys  
and there was no  
need of another  
word her radiant  
face was quite en-  
ough to convince  
Jack Evans of  
her gratitude.

9859

"And can we go now  
and convince Mrs  
B commen she is to  
have a new home"  
said Gladys a few  
minutes later "She  
must be so dread-  
fully worried and  
unhappy you know"  
"Perhaps she may  
be hanging about  
some where" said  
Evans hoping 7 might  
be induced to change  
my mind 7'll go  
and have a look"  
He left the room  
but very soon re-  
turned with the

9860

information that  
Mr. O'Connor had  
gone home, the butler  
had seen her walk-  
ing down the street  
crying as she went.  
Gladys began to  
look distressed.

"Oh couldn't you  
send some one  
to tell her" she  
said eagerly "she  
so unhappy and  
suppose the men  
should come  
to move away  
her things  
before she knew  
she was going

to live with the little  
Virians.

Evans glanced at the  
clock.

"I'll tell youse what  
we weel do" he said.  
"Youse shall go and  
tell her yourself.  
Get een all your  
darning at 3 at and  
she might as weel  
know eet I een  
not much een  
ze habit of chang-  
ing ze mind  
about dem things  
meeself. I weel  
order ze trap and  
drive youse down

9861

to a stand  
ing the reins  
room who  
nd, sprang  
und and  
ady from  
seat.  
a rather  
proceeding  
part of the  
Jack Evans  
calling on  
Mrs. Scott  
for the  
of inform  
her that  
right go  
ve with  
as Violet

9862



9864

and her sisters  
rent free for as long  
as possible, and  
perhaps the very  
novelty of it caused  
the Abbeismarian  
Baron to quite en-  
joy the sensation.

He led Gladys  
up a narrow path  
bordered with clothes  
lines and knocked  
at the door of  
the building which  
was opened after  
a short delay.

By Mrs Occomes  
herself. A very  
tidy looking

9865

person she was and  
yet by her appearance  
there was perhaps  
some very good rea-  
son for Jack Evans  
not wanting her  
to take a chance  
living too close  
to Mr Seemann  
house, but her  
eyes were red from  
crying and there  
was no doubt as  
to the fact of her  
being in real  
trouble.

At sight of her  
visitors the woman  
started back with



9866

an exclamation of  
dismay.

"Weel meeres Connors'  
began Evans who  
never wasted time  
in unnecessary  
words these es  
leedle Gladys wenth-  
worth an she as  
come to teel youse  
zat youse may  
stay neent free  
een ze house  
of ze preencees  
un till ze craze  
ouse es cleared  
out'

The woman  
clasped her hands

9862

and burst into a  
rather incoherent tor-  
rent of gratitude and  
blessings in the very  
midst of which  
Evans cut her short.

"Zare es nothing  
to thank me for"  
he said in his  
harsh abrupt voice  
"Eef ze mat rested  
wiz ze ceety autho-  
rith youse all would  
would have packed  
out of here zer  
afternoon wuzoud  
ze chance to find  
an odder place  
first but I prom-

9863

Wished this young  
lady a birthday  
present, and she  
took it into her  
head to request  
that you or you're  
family should  
be allow to room  
in the quarters  
of the princess  
until after the  
severnman house  
is cleared.

The torrent of  
Mrs. Conners grat-  
itude was immedi-  
ately turned  
upon Gladys.  
"May the saints

9864

of Heaven beless  
bless you for a dear  
sweet little lady  
and may you ne-  
ver know the  
touch of sorrow  
yourself, and its  
praying for you  
we'll all be this  
very night. In another  
month the ban-  
shies may be gone  
away for good. You-  
ve saved us all  
and poor little  
Johnnie and Nell so  
sick I could never  
get them out of  
bed however hard

9865

I tried "

"I are, I at weel do eet"  
interrupted Evans  
we are no more  
time to heah ze  
more, weel let  
come 'along Gladys".

(After) And wouldnt  
you be after step-  
ping inside just  
to have a look  
at poor little John-  
mie and Nell."

said Mrs Conner  
"They're awfully  
sick poor little  
children. The others  
is all out play-  
ing in the

9866

park."

"No thank youse"  
said Evans shortly.  
"I es not fond of ze  
seek children when  
I ay es strangers".

He was drawing  
Gladys away but  
the child hesitated.

"Dont you think  
I might go in for a  
moment" she whis-  
pered "I t might  
please Mrs Conner  
and I'd like to see  
the poor little girl  
and boy".

"Very weel do as  
youse like only

9867

don't stay too long  
eats nearly lunch  
time.

"Heah Mrs Connors  
zis young ladde  
would like to  
say ze word to  
you bye and good.  
She is a friend  
of ze needle. Vee-  
vann so be  
ceerful she is  
not hot"

Gladys accomp-  
anied the Irish  
woman into  
the house and  
up the steep  
narrow stairs into

9868

a tiny bedroom which  
was to the child very  
hot and close.

"Oh Johnnie and  
Nellie darlings be-  
gan Mrs Connors  
as they entered the  
room "here is a  
sweet beautiful  
little lady come to  
see you. And its  
a friend of the  
little Virriams she  
is, good friend of  
those poor brave  
little craters and  
never a bit afraid  
of the banshees  
is she. But she's

1869

come with good news  
to us this day for  
its Mr Jack Evans  
thats brought her  
and we aint to be  
turned out but to  
go to live with the  
little Virvians for  
another month  
and by that time  
the barshes  
will be driven  
out. Aint that fine  
news childers."

The only ans-  
wer was a faint  
fretful moan  
from Johnnie  
and the demand

in a faint childish  
whisper

"Gimme a drink"  
"Oh Johnnie" remon-  
strated the mother  
"you do be cussing  
for drinks every  
minute all day  
so much cold water  
aint good for little  
byes."

"I'm awfully dry  
oh mammy do  
give me a drink  
even if its hot  
milk"

"Poor little boy"  
said Gladys pityingly  
"I dont believe



9871

it will  
and it  
dreadful  
thirsty."

man  
Gladys  
the  
room  
went  
some  
Gladys  
the  
Johnny  
"Well  
for  
child  
to  
made  
to

9873

it hurts all over  
"What hit and chok-  
ed you?"

"The inside of the  
Seserman house"

"I'm so sorry"

said Gladys stroking  
one of the little  
hot hands. which  
lay outside the  
sheet "I guess you'll  
feel better soon. Here  
corner your mo-  
ther with a nice  
drink for you"

Johnny sat up  
and held out  
his hand for  
the glass his

9874

mother carried but  
when he had drain-  
ed its contents to a  
gulf he sank back on  
the pillow with a  
moan.

"I'm afraid he's very  
sick," said Gladys  
anxiously "have you  
had a doctor to see  
him?"

"Not yet but I'll  
have one this after-  
noon if he ain't better  
Dr Brown will  
come if I send one  
of the childer for  
him. He's a good  
man and very



9875

kund to poor people  
maybe I'd better  
be taking you down  
again now for fear  
Misther Evans would  
be waiting for you"

"Yes I guess I'd  
better go good bye  
Johnnie I sincerely  
hope you'll be  
ever so much  
better to morrow"

"I never did seem  
not him so sudden  
in all my life"  
said Mrs O Con-  
ner as she led  
Gladys down stairs  
'He was inside

9826

the crazy house yis-  
terday morning  
and it was only last  
(night) night as  
he was took like  
this all in a min-  
ute. I said he was  
choked and struck  
down by some  
thing unseen and  
thrown (it) into  
a briar bush.

(It was the Elm tree that  
got him?)

"How old is he?"  
Gladys inquired  
with interest.  
Eight going on  
nine and a

9877

of some big bye for  
his age. He never  
had a day of sick-  
ness since he was  
bairn. I don't under-  
stand what's the  
matter wid him  
at all."

Maybe the bar-  
screen did some-  
thing to him."

"That's what I'm  
afraid of" said  
the mother.

Evans was  
waiting rather  
impatiently and  
he hurried Gladys  
into the taxi-  
cab cutting

9878

short Mrs O'Connor  
farewell hope that  
the 'sweet' little angel  
would have double  
joy in Heaven. He  
did appear very much  
interested in Johnnie  
and Nell. As Gladys  
told him all about  
the poor little sick  
children whose  
heads felt so hot  
and the boy who  
kept asking for  
drinks every min-  
ute.

He was very kind  
and he drove her  
all the way home.

9879

instead of stopping  
at his own place  
in Evanston and leav-  
ing her to go back  
with Sarah

Good buy and thank  
you a hundred mil-  
lion times" said

Gladys.

As her friends  
lifted her down from  
the running board  
of the auto at  
the Wentworth front  
door. "I really think  
this is the low-  
liest birth day  
I ever had. I  
wish I could

2880

give you something  
you've made me so  
awfully awfully happy."

"Give me a kiss then"  
said the Abbeonian  
Baron suddenly bend-  
ing down to a level  
with Gladys "that's  
about as good as any-  
thing else" guess.

"Next moment Gladys  
arms were around  
his neck.

"Oh dear kind Mr  
Evans" she cried  
kissing him heart-  
ily "I can't tell  
even tell how  
happy you've made

9881

me and how much  
 I thank you."  
 "It was the first time  
 in his life that Evans  
 had felt the touch of  
 an American child's  
 arms or of an Amer-  
 ican child's lips.

"Why what's the  
 matter with you  
 this afternoon  
 Gladys you sure  
 don't seem one  
 bit interested  
 in anything"

Ermod's tone was  
 decidedly im-  
 patient and Gladys

9882

who had been ly-  
 ing back on a large  
 easy chair with closed  
 eyes hastened to  
 assume a more up-  
 right position.

"I'm sorry prince  
 I was stupid" she  
 said apologetically  
 I didn't mean to be  
 but I guess it's be-  
 cause all those awful  
 strange noises in  
 my room kept me  
 awake last night  
 and I couldn't  
 sleep.

"I believe you've  
 been asleep most

9883

of the time this  
after noon " Pennod  
went on still unmo-  
tified "and my sister  
Jennie has been read-  
ing you such a nice  
story too. I think  
"anyone's quest is one  
of the most in-  
teresting books in  
the world"

"It is a lovely  
story" Gladys as-  
serted blushing -

ing "but I'm  
afraid I did fall  
asleep for a  
few minutes. I've  
been sleepy all

9884

day as I couldn't  
get any sleep nearly  
all night. - Strange  
noise and funny  
things happened and  
when I woke up my  
bed was not where  
it had been when I  
got into it.

"What?" cried Pen-  
nod.

Gladys repeated  
what she had  
said.

"Don't tell Sarah  
about it or she'll  
make you come  
back to Chicago.  
I'm sorry and



9885

suspicious you  
had all that trouble  
perhaps your visits  
to Sersman's house  
is causing the  
evil to follow you  
here."

"I know strangely  
as it was it was  
pretty noisy in  
the house last  
night. It was  
pretty bad at  
two o'clock this  
morning" de-  
clared Jennie.

I didn't hardly  
mind it "said  
Gladys as Jennie

looked strange  
Period "It was  
interesting then  
as it was. I  
not scared

badly among  
But I'm all  
out now for  
sleep and for  
thing around  
in here -  
now feel  
and queer

"I guess the  
are pester.  
you I felt  
way the  
time I en-  
Sersman

9888

going the day after  
tomorrow "I'd  
Jennie "we're only  
got one more day  
to be to gether for  
we have to renew  
our fight in Sers-  
man's house. Do come  
I'll get your hat and  
I know the nice  
cool air on the beach  
will get some of  
the sleepiness  
out of you and you'll  
feel better"

"All right said  
Gladys getting out  
of the chair  
and wondering vaguely



1889

Why every exertion  
seemed to create  
such strange noises  
at a distance -

It was two days  
since Gladys birth day  
and in two more  
the little girl  
was to return to  
her city home next  
week and she  
and her parents  
were to start on  
that delightful trip  
to the mount-  
ains.

Gladys was very  
happy and yet  
even since the

1890

morning when she  
first felt that little  
uncomfortable chill  
running up and down  
her spine the cause  
of strange unaccount-  
able noises near  
and far where ever  
she went, even  
the thought of the  
pleasant times in  
store for her had  
seemed to make  
her feel tired and  
jerky all over.

Gennie ran into  
the house for their  
hats returning  
in a few moments

9891

By Sarah and the three started in the direction of the beach.

"Don't you feel well to day Gladys?" Sarah inquired rather suspiciously. She could not help noticing how slowly her little charge was walking and what a listless tired expression had replaced the radiant one on her face.

"Oh Jim all right thank you" said Gladys I guess I didn't sleep enough

9892

last night but - that's all"

Sarah said nothing and they had nearly reached the lane which led down to the beach when the sound of approaching wheels caused Jennie to turn her head and exclaim in a tone of interest.

"It's our Guardian Jack Evans in his dog cart perhaps he'll ask you to take a drive with him"

In another moment the black (not blue) horse horse

1893

had come to a stop  
and Evans loud voice  
was calling:-

"Hallo Gladys want  
to come for a drive?"

Gladys looked doubt-  
ful but Jennie with  
most unusual un-  
selfishness hast-  
ened to set her  
friends at rest

by whispering  
"Go if you want  
to I don't mind  
then the best  
of men to get  
an a friend."

So Gladys smiled  
and accepted the

1894

invitation and in less  
than two minutes the  
little Irish girl had  
been lifted into the  
high besides Jack Evans  
and the black horse  
was carrying them  
over the ground at a  
pace which might  
have frightened some  
little girls but  
which seemed very  
delightful to Gladys  
to whom the sen-  
sation of fear was  
almost an unknown  
experience.

"Well and what  
have you been

9894

doing with yourself lately?" Evans inquired as they turned into or from the main lane onto a more shady street where the air felt cooler and more refreshing. Gladys sweat covered forehead.

"Oh I've been having a lovely time" said Gladys trying to speak in her usual cheerful tone but finding it something of an effort "Jennie and

9895

I went with her brother and sisters for a long drive with the pony this morning and yesterday we had a game picnic dinner on the beach. I haven't seen you for ever so long. I was wondering where you were."

"Did you really? Well now that's flattering for an Alaskan man like me. Young ladies in this country don't as a rule trouble themselves to worry about me

10/6

on ze leedle Usarians  
on to cure what be-  
cames of us either. I  
had to go to ze cety  
on ze crazy our bus-  
iness and as I m  
not fond of ze travel-  
ing I staid ze are  
wroteet set was been-  
ish, I no like  
what everytheng  
look like (ee)een  
zat house eet es  
getting very very  
bad, I only came  
back last night.  
"I m going home  
the day after to  
morrow" said

9/8/21

Gladys.

Mr Evans frowned,  
"Going home are you?  
Where's home?"

"Why in Chicago with  
my parents?"  
"You can't go to Chicago  
in the coming of  
this summer what  
Went worth the work -  
ing to let you  
do such a thing?"

"Oh but I've made  
a very long visit  
already" said Gladys  
earnestly. "Besides  
I m not going to  
stay in Chicago  
now next week



9897

my mother and I  
are going away to a  
beautiful place in Cal-  
ifornia."

"And when are youse  
comin' back heah  
I shoulda liked to  
know?"

Oh I dont know"  
said Gladys smil-  
ing "not before  
next summer any-  
way We live in  
Chicago in winter  
you know"

"Sooka heah" said  
Evam with sud-  
den decision "zis  
wont do at ze

all youse gotta come  
back and make me  
ze veerit"

Gladys was very  
much flattered.  
Would you really  
like to have me?"  
she asked.

"I dont reely ask  
ze peepke how would  
youse like to come  
and live wif ze  
leidle Veerram al-  
together eh?"

Evam asked this  
startling question  
in just the same  
tone in which  
he might have



were fewer. The building was three stories high and from north south to east surrounded by factory buildings and two schools. The lot on the street side was enclosed by fence.

On the north and south side of the room porch section of the building were stair cases. These were wooden.

sheds at west end of lot north and south.